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# Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, September 18, 2014



# UP IN ARMS

Secretary of State John Kerry testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014, during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the US strategy to defeat the Islamic State group.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

## US House OKs Arms, Training For Syrian Rebels

**DAVID ESPO**  
**DONNA CASSATA**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Republican-controlled House voted grudgingly to

give the administration authority to train and arm Syrian rebels on Wednesday as President Barack Obama emphasized anew that American forces “do not

and will not have a combat mission” in the struggle against Islamic State militants in either Iraq or Syria. The 273-156 vote crossed party lines to an unusu-

al degree in a Congress marked by near ceaseless partisanship. Top Republican and Democratic leaders backed Obama's plan seven weeks before

midterm elections, while dozens of rank-and-file lawmakers in both parties opposed it.

**Continued on Page 3**

# Emotions mount on final day of Scottish campaign

**JILL LAWLESS**

**Associated Press**

**EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP)**

— For Scots, Wednesday was a day of excitement, apprehension, and a flood of final appeals before a big decision. In a matter of hours, they will determine whether Scotland leaves the United Kingdom and becomes an independent state.

A full 97 percent of those eligible have registered to vote — including, for the first time, 16- and 17-year-olds — in a referendum that polls suggest is too close to call.

A phone poll of 1,373 people by Ipsos MORI, released Wednesday, put opposition to independence at 51 percent and support at 49 percent, with 5 percent of voters undecided.

That means neither side can feel confident, given the margin of error of about plus or minus three percentage points.

Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, himself a Scot,

told a No campaign rally that the quiet majority of pro-Union Scots “will be si-

Salmond urged voters to seize a democratic opportunity 307 years in the mak-

for Scotland had all the trappings of a normal election campaign: “Yes Scot-

tons on jackets, leaflets on street corners and megaphone-topped campaign cars cruising the streets blasting out Scottish songs and “Children of the Revolution.”

But it is, both sides acknowledge, a once-in-a-generation — maybe once-in-a-lifetime — choice that could redraw the map of the United Kingdom.

The gravity of the imminent decision was hitting home for many voters as political leaders made passionate, final pleas for their sides. More than 4.2 million people are registered to vote in the country of 5.3 million people.

Cathy Chance, who works for Britain’s National Health Service in the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, said she would leave Scotland if it became independent.

“I don’t want to live under a nation that’s nationalistic,” she said. “I don’t think the world needs another political barrier.”

On the other side, Yes campaigner Roisin McLaren said she was finally letting herself believe independence might be possible.

“My family has campaigned for independence for a long, long time, and it’s always been a pipe dream,” the Edinburgh University student said as she knocked on doors in a last-minute effort to convert wavering electors. “Just in the last few days it’s seemed possible, within reach. I can almost taste it.”

Politicians on both sides expressed confidence in the Scottish public, but uncertainty rippled below the surface.

Opinion polls have failed to put either side decisively ahead. Bookmakers, however, told a different story. A winning 1 pound bet on Yes would pay out 5 pounds from many bookies, while the same pound would return just 1.20 pounds from a winning wager on No. One firm, Betfair, has already paid out on a No win.

Brown, Britain’s former leader, told supporters that the patriotic choice was to remain within the U.K. □



**People react during a pro Scottish independence campaign rally, in central Glasgow, Scotland, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014. The two sides in Scotland’s independence debate scrambled to convert undecided voters on the last full day until a referendum on separation. The referendum takes place today, Thursday, September 18, 2014.**

**(AP Photo/David Cheskin)**

lent no more,” while pro-independence leader Alex

ing. In its final hours, the battle

land” and “No, Thanks” posters in windows, but-

## Top Saudi clerics issue edict against terrorism

**ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI**

**AYA BATRAWY**

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)**

— Saudi Arabia’s highest body of religious scholars issued a stern ruling on Wednesday calling terrorism a “heinous crime” and saying perpetrators including Islamic State militants deserve punishment in line with Islamic law.

The Council of Senior Religious Scholars said in its fatwa, or religious edict, that it backs the kingdom’s efforts to track down and punish followers of the Islamic State group and al-Qaida. The clerics are appointed by the government and are seen as guardians of the kingdom’s ultraconservative Wahhabi school of Islam. The statement by the group of 21 scholars underpins the kingdom’s broader efforts to deter citizens from joining extremist groups that want to bring down the Western-allied monarchy.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to Saudi Arabia last week and won

support from the kingdom and other Arab allies to help fight the Islamic State militants who have seized large parts of Iraq and Syria. A State Department offi-

controlled media and members of the religious establishment to speak out against extremism.

The edict highlights the historically close relationship

to the Saudi king’s efforts to fight the Islamic State as part of an international coalition.

The council is the only official authority in Saudi Arabia allowed to issue religious edicts concerning questions about how citizens should live their lives. The council’s condemnations extended to others the Saudi government opposes as well, including the Shiite Hawthi rebel group in Yemen and Saudi Hezbollah, a Shiite militant movement that was engaged in attacks in the kingdom in the 1980s and 1990s. It also criticized what it called “crimes of terrorism practiced by the Israeli occupation.”

The scholars said authorities have to track down instigators of conflict and financiers of terrorism because they commit “one of the greatest sins” which is “disobeying the ruler”. They said they support the government’s decision to prohibit citizens from fighting in conflicts abroad. □



**Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, and head of the Council of Senior Religious Scholars, Sheikh Abdul-Aziz Al-Sheik, prays at the Imam Turki bin Abdullah mosque in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The council issued a religious ruling Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014, calling terrorism a “heinous crime” and saying its supporters and perpetrators deserve punishment according to Islamic law. Earlier this year Al-Sheik, said that terrorist groups were Islam’s number one enemy.**

**(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)**

cial told reporters ahead of the visit that Kerry planned to ask Mideast countries to encourage government-

between the Wahhabi establishment in Saudi Arabia and the kingdom’s rulers, and gives religious backing

## Muted expectation of UN Obama, Rouhani meeting

**JULIE PACE**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — One year ago, President Barack Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani came close to ending the decades-long freeze on face-to-face meetings between their countries' leaders.

Next week both men are scheduled to again be in New York for United Nations meetings but expectations for even a handshake are more muted than they were last year. While lower level officials from both countries are now in regular contact, deadlocked nuclear talks — as well as the complexities of the fight against militants in the Middle East — are clouding the prospects for an elusive leaders' meeting.

"The state of play between the United States and Iran is too fragile to endure what would be the shock of a direct meeting," said Robin Wright, a joint fellow at the Wilson Center and the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington.

An in-person meeting between the two leaders would mark a substantive shift in the way the U.S. has dealt with Iran for decades and could eventually open the door for talks on matters beyond Tehran's disputed nuclear program. It would also mark the fulfillment of a pledge Obama made as a presidential candidate when he said he would be willing to talk to America's adversaries without preconditions.

Obama spokesman Josh Earnest said a meeting with Rouhani is not on Obama's "dance card" next week, though the White House has not ruled out the possibility that the two men could have an encounter on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. Obama and Rouhani will both arrive in New York early next week for meetings with world leaders and speeches to

the UN.

The White House's public posture is noticeably different than it was heading into last year's U.N. meetings, which came on the heels of Rouhani's surprise victory in Iran's presidential elections. White House officials said repeatedly that Obama was willing to meet with the new, more moderate-sounding Iranian leader. And when plans for the meeting eventually fell apart, U.S. officials made clear that it was the Iranians who balked, not Obama.

Still, Obama and Rouhani did speak by telephone for 15 minutes, the first time the presidents of the United States and Iran had talked directly since the 1979 Iranian revolution and siege of the American embassy. The conversation was hailed as an historic breakthrough, and Obama said it offered the prospect of the two countries moving beyond their difficult history.

Since then, there has been progress in the U.S.-Iranian relationship.

Obama administration officials are in regular touch with their Iranian counterparts, exchanging phone calls and emails.

A series of secret talks between officials in both countries also paved the way for nuclear negotiations with the international community. The parties reached an interim agreement late last year, freezing key elements of Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the easing of some Western sanctions that have hampered the Islamic republic's economy.

But the talks have stalled over intense disagreements between Iran and the negotiating coalition of the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China. At the heart of the dispute are stubborn differences over the size and capacity of nuclear activities Tehran might be able to maintain. □

## US House OKs arms, for Syrian rebels

**Continued from front**

The provision was added to spending legislation that will ensure the federal government operates normally after the Sept. 30 end of the budget year. Final approval is expected in the Senate as early as Thursday. Even supporters of the military plan found little to trumpet. "This is the best of a long list of bad options," said Rep. Jim Moran.

One Republican sup-

a "critical component" of his strategy against the extremists.

Only a day earlier, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, drew widespread attention when he told Congress he might recommend the use of U.S. ground combat forces if Obama's current strategy fails to stop the militants.

Across the political aisle from the president and Pelosi, Speaker John Boehner

While the military provision was given a separate vote in the House — to tack it onto the spending bill — it seemed unlikely there would be a yes-or-no vote in the Senate on Obama's new military strategy to train rebel forces in Saudi Arabia to be used in conjunction with potential U.S. airstrikes.

Instead, the Senate is likely to vote only once on the legislation that combines approval for arming and



**Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., left, and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., talk on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014, during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the U.S. strategy to defeat the Islamic State group.**

**(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)**

porter noted the measure includes strict limits on Obama's authority. "Members on both sides of the aisle are very concerned that too much of Congress' war making power has gone to the president," said Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma.

Obama's remarks and similar comments Wednesday by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi seemed designed to reassure liberal lawmakers that the new military mission would be limited.

In a statement following the vote, Obama said the House "took an important step forward as our nation unites to confront the threat posed" by the Islamic State group, showing bipartisan support for

and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California swung behind the plan. Yet many other Republicans expressed concerns that it would be insufficient to defeat militants who have overrun parts of Syria and Iraq and beheaded two American journalists. In all, 85 Democrats and 71 Republicans voted to deny Obama the authority he sought. The measure passed on the strength of 159 votes from Republicans and 114 from Democrats. Republican lawmakers took solace in the short-term nature of the legislation. It grants Obama authority only until Dec. 11, giving Congress plenty of time to return to the issue in a postelection session set to begin in mid-November.

training rebels with the no-shutdown federal spending provisions.

Officials put a \$500 million price tag on Obama's request to train and equip rebels. The cost generated virtually no discussion among lawmakers, who focused instead on the possible consequences of a new military mission not long after America ended participation in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Testifying before a Senate Committee, Secretary of State John Kerry said the forces seeking to create an Islamic state "must be defeated. Period. End of story."

There was little, if any dissent on that, but debate aplenty about the best way to accomplish it. □

# Senate: China hacked military contractor networks

**JACK GILLUM**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — China's military hacked into computer networks of civilian transportation companies hired by the Pentagon at least nine times, breaking into computers aboard a commercial ship, targeting logistics companies and uploading malicious software onto an airline's computers, Senate investigators said Wednesday.

A yearlong investigation announced by the Senate Armed Services Committee identified at least 20 break-ins or other unspecified cyber events targeting companies, including nine successful break-ins of contractor networks. It blamed China's government for all the most sophisticated intrusions, although it did not provide any detailed evidence.

The Senate report did not identify which transportation companies were victimized.

Investigators said China's military was able to steal emails, documents, user accounts and computer



**Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., talks to reporters about cyberattacks from China, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014 on Capitol Hill in Washington. China's military hacked into computer networks of civilian transportation companies hired by the Pentagon at least nine times, breaking into computers aboard a commercial ship, targeting logistics companies and uploading malicious software onto an airline's computers, Senate investigators said Wednesday.**

(AP Photo/Lauren Victoria Burke)

codes. They also said China compromised systems aboard a commercial ship contracted by Transcom for logistics routes, and hacked into an airline the

U.S. military used.

The committee's chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, a Democrat, said the hacking put at risk the security of U.S. military operations. He

called his committee's findings "very disturbing."

China's government did not immediately respond Wednesday to telephone messages and emails from

The Associated Press requesting comment in Beijing, its embassy in Washington and offices at the United Nations.

The newly declassified Senate report says defense contractors have generally failed to report to the Pentagon hacker break-ins of their systems as required under their business agreements.

Levin, whose staff investigated the break-ins with the committee's top Republican, Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe, said government agencies also failed to share information among themselves about intrusions. He said that hampers the government's ability to protect national security. For instance, the committee said some contractors that contacted the FBI about break-ins may have not separately reported the intrusions to Transcom because the firms assumed the bureau already had notified the Pentagon. Levin said he and Inhofe were working on a bill to streamline the reporting process. □

# Doctor says Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has cancer

**ROB GILLIES**

**Associated Press**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has a rare and difficult cancer that will require aggressive chemotherapy, his doctor said Wednesday.

Dr. Zane Cohen, a colorectal surgeon at Mount Sinai hospital, said Ford has a malignant liposarcoma. Ford has been hospitalized for a week with a tumor in his abdomen.

Cohen said the cancer is

spreading and that they have found "a small nodule in the buttock" near the left hip. He said the mayor will be treated with fairly intensive chemotherapeutic agents within the next two days.

The doctor said Ford's cancer makes up only about one percent of all cancers but said he was optimistic about Ford's treatment because they have many experts in sarcoma at the hospital. He said Ford will get two cycles of chemotherapy over the next 40 days, and then they'll assess. He said surgery may or may not be necessary.

"We are optimistic about treatment. This particular liposarcoma is more sensitive to chemotherapy than most sarcomas," Cohen said.

Cohen said the tumor is about 12 centimeters (5 inches) by 12 centimeters (5 inches) and is about two or three years old. It hasn't

spread to organs, he said. Liposarcoma is a type of soft tissue cancer that begins in fat cells, or fatty tissue, and occurs most often in older adults. A sarcoma is a soft-tissue cancer that can occur anywhere in the body and that often is encapsulated, or contained within a pouch of tissue. Soft tissue includes muscles, tendons, fat and blood vessels, and treatment varies depending on the size, stage and location of the tumor, among other things. The mayor withdrew his re-election bid Friday, dramatically ending a campaign he had doggedly pursued despite calls for him to quit amid drug and alcohol scandals and a stint in rehab.

Doug Ford, who is running for mayor in his brother's place, said the mayor is crushed.

"My brother has been diagnosed with cancer and I can't begin to share how

devastating this has been for Rob and our family," Doug Ford said in a statement.

"He is an incredible person, husband, father, brother and son and he remains upbeat and determined to fight this."

Doug said the kind words and well wishes mean a lot to his brother.

"Rob will beat this," Doug Ford said.

Neither the mayor nor his family with the doctor when the announcement was made.

The mayor, who is married with two kids under the age of 10, checked himself into a hospital last week after complaining of stomach pain while eating breakfast with his brother.

"He's having some pain still," Cohen said. "We are managing that."

He said the initial biopsy came back inconclusive but a second biopsy revealed the cancer. □

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# Police: Ambush suspect was military re-enactor

**MICHAEL RUBINKAM**  
**Associated Press**

The suspect in last week's fatal ambush outside a rural Pennsylvania State Police barracks belonged to a "military simulation unit" whose members play the role of soldiers from eastern Europe, police said Wednesday. Eric Frein, 31, "appears to have assumed that role in real life" as he seeks to avoid capture, Lt. Col. George Bivens said.

Hundreds of law enforcement officials spent a fifth full day Wednesday looking for the gunman who concealed himself outside the Blooming Grove barracks late Friday and shot two troopers with a rifle, killing one and injuring the second. Frein, named as the suspect after police searching an abandoned Jeep found his driver's license and spent shell casings matching those found at

the crime scene, shaved his head recently in a style resembling a Mohawk, Bivens said. "Investigators believe that this change was made as part of the mental preparation to commit this cowardly act," he said. Authorities hunting for Frein chased down several mistaken sightings Wednesday as schools closed down and the public remained on edge. Law enforcement massed

in a forested area to check out one of the latest tips, from workers who said they saw an armed person wearing camouflage, according to Trooper Tom Kelly, a state police spokesman. Police have been "getting sightings all over the place," but none have panned out so far, he said. Frein, of Canadensis, is charged with killing Cpl. Bryon Dickson, a 38-year-old married father of two,

and critically wounding Trooper Alex Douglass. Dickson's viewing was being held Wednesday in Scranton, with his funeral scheduled for Thursday. State police have warned the public that Frein is dangerous, calling him an anti-law enforcement survivalist who has talked about committing mass murder. Two school districts closed Wednesday because of safety concerns for students and staff. □

# US School police stocking up on free military gear

**TAMI ABDOLLAH**  
**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — School police departments across the country have taken advantage of free military surplus gear, stocking up on mine resistant armored vehicles, grenade launchers and scores of M16 rifles. At least 26 school districts across the country have participated in the Pentagon's surplus program, which is not new but came under scrutiny in recent months after police responded to Ferguson, Missouri, protesters with tear gas, armored trucks and in riot gear. Law enforcement agencies used the program to equip themselves during learner budget years, and since the Columbine school shooting in 1999, schools increasingly participated. Federal records show schools in California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Nevada, Texas and Utah obtained surplus military gear.

Now, amid increasing criticism, several school districts say they'll give some of the equipment back. Nearly two dozen education and civil liberties groups sent

a letter earlier this week to the Pentagon and the Justice and Education departments urging a stop to transfers of military weapons to school police.

The Los Angeles Unified School District — the nation's second largest school district covering 710 square miles and enrolling more than 900,000 students

— said in a statement this week that it would remove three grenade launchers it had acquired under the program in 2001 because they "are not essential life-saving items within the scope, duties and mission" of the district's police force. But the district plans to keep the 60 M16s and a MRAP — a military vehicle used in Iraq and Afghanistan that is built to withstand mine blasts — it received.

District police Chief Steve Zipperman told The Associated Press that the M16s are used for training, and the MRAP, which is parked off campus in a lot, was acquired because the district could not afford to buy armored vehicles that might be used to protect officers and help students in a school shooting.

"That vehicle is used in very extraordinary circumstances involving a life-saving situation for an armed threat," Zipperman said. □



**A Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle sits in front of police headquarters in Watertown, Conn. The L.A. Unified's School District police department received a MRAP vehicle like this one through a federal program. School police departments across the country have taken advantage of free military surplus gear, stocking up on mine resistant vehicles, grenade launchers and scores of M16 rifles. At least 26 school districts across the country participate in the Pentagon's surplus program, which has come under scrutiny after a militarized police response to protests in Ferguson, Missouri.**

# Prosecutor may release audio of Brown grand jury

**JIM SALTER**  
**Associated Press**

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — A prosecutor says he'll immediately release transcripts and audio recordings of a grand jury investigation into the death of an unarmed young black man if the panel doesn't indict the suburban St. Louis police officer who shot him. Spokesman Ed Magee on Wednesday said St. Louis County prosecutor Bob

McCulloch has ordered that the proceedings be transcribed and audio-recorded, an unusual step for grand juries in Missouri. The story was first reported by St. Louis Public Radio. Magee said the decision was spurred by the high-profile nature of the case. "We just want to be more open," he said. Brown, 18, was shot by Ferguson, Missouri, police officer Darren Wilson on Aug.

9. Police said the shooting happened after a scuffle inside Wilson's squad car spilled out into the street. The shooting of a young black man by a white police officer spurred massive protests and several days of unrest. If Wilson is indicted, the testimony and recordings will become potential evidence for trial and will not be released. McCulloch has said the grand jury in-

vestigation is expected to last into mid-October. Magee said Wilson has been offered the chance to testify before the grand jury, "and it will be up to him whether he testifies or not." Critics have questioned whether McCulloch should be removed from the case given his family history. McCulloch's father was a St. Louis police officer killed in the line of duty by a black assailant in the

1960s. McCulloch declined to step aside, and Gov. Jay Nixon declined to appoint a special prosecutor. Others have questioned McCulloch's decision to present evidence and let the grand jury decide on charges, rather than make a recommendation. Dana Milbank wrote a column in the Washington Post claiming the decision was proof of a "fix" to clear Wilson of any wrongdoing. □

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## Fed signals no hurry to raise rates

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Federal Reserve signaled Wednesday that it plans to keep a key interest rate at a record low because a broad range of U.S. economic measures remain subpar. The Fed said it intends to keep its benchmark rate near zero as long as inflation remains under control, until it sees consistent gains in wage growth, long-term unemployment and other gauges of the job market. The central bank retained language signaling its plans to keep short-term rates low "for a considerable time" after it ends its monthly bond purchases after its next meeting in October.

"In the Fed's mind, the economy still has work to do, but it's improving," said Mike Arone, an investment strategist with State Street

Global Advisors.

Stock prices rose after the Fed issued a statement at 2 p.m. Eastern time after a two-day policy meeting. Traders appeared pleased that the Fed seems in no hurry to raise rates. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note ticked up to 2.59 percent from 2.56 percent before the Fed's statement. In its statement, the Fed said it will make another \$10 billion cut in the pace of its Treasury and mortgage bond purchases, which have been intended to keep long-term borrowing rates low.

It also clarified the process by which it will eventually unwind its low-rate policies. The Fed said it would first increase its key short-term rate before it stops reinvesting its bond holdings, which have driven the Fed's balance sheet to a record of nearly \$4.5 trillion.

On Wednesday, the cen-

tral bank also issued updated forecasts for growth, inflation and interest rates. The median short-term rate supported by Fed policymakers at the end of 2015 is now 1.38 percent, up from 1.13 percent at its June meeting.

The Fed expects slower growth this year and next than in its last projections issued in June. It predicts that the economy will grow about 2.1 percent this year, down from its June forecast of roughly 2.2 percent.

That reduction likely reflects the sharp contraction in the first quarter of this year. The economy has rebounded solidly since then.

On the eve of the Fed's meeting this week, the financial world had been on high alert for whether the Fed would reiterate that it expects to keep its key short-term rate near zero for a "considerable time" after the bond buying ends. □



Lance Thompson pumps gas into his truck at a Love's station in St. Joseph, Mo. The Labor Department reported on U.S. consumer prices in August on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014.

(AP Photo/Sait Serkan Gurbuz)

## U.S. consumer prices fall by 0.2 percent in August

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. consumer prices edged down in August, the first monthly drop since the spring of 2013, as gasoline, airline tickets and clothing prices all fell. It was the latest evidence that inflation remains under control.

Consumer prices edged down 0.2 percent last month following a tiny 0.1 percent gain in July, the Labor Department reported Wednesday. It was the first decline since a similar 0.2 percent drop in April 2013. Core prices, which exclude energy and food, were unchanged in August, the first time there hasn't been an increase since October 2010.

Over the past 12 months, overall prices and core prices are both up a modest 1.7 percent. These gains are well within the 2 percent annual increase for inflation that the Federal Reserve considers optimal. Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said that the drop in prices would give a "powerful boost" to "doves" on the Fed, officials who argue

that at the moment unemployment and weak economic growth are bigger problems than the threat of future inflation.

Analysts believe that inflation will remain moderate in coming months, helped by falling energy prices. AAA reports that the nationwide average for a gallon of gasoline is down to \$3.38, down eight cents from a month ago and 14 cents lower than a year ago.

The recent decline in gasoline prices is one reason that economists are optimistic that consumer spending will show solid gains in the coming months. A drop in gasoline prices means consumers will have more to spend on other items.

For August, energy prices fell 2.6 percent, the second straight monthly decline. Gasoline costs were down 4.1 percent in August after a smaller 0.3 percent July drop.

Food costs edged up 0.2 percent in August following a 0.4 percent July. Over the past 12 months, food costs have risen 2.7 percent reflecting drought in California that has cut into crop yields. □



Federal Reserve Chairman Janet Yellen speaks during a news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014. The Federal Reserve signaled Wednesday that it plans to keep a key interest rate at a record low for a considerable period because a broad range of U.S. economic measures remain subpar.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)



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### US Financial Front:

## American homebuilder confidence soars in September

**ALEX VEIGA**  
AP Business Writer

U.S. homebuilders' confidence in the market for new, single-family homes surged this month to the highest level in nearly nine years.

The brighter outlook reflects growing optimism that sales will increase over the next six months. That could potentially spur growth in home construction, a key driver of the economy. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Wednesday rose this month to 59, up four points from August. The index has risen four months in a row.

The latest reading is the highest since reaching 61 in November 2005, before the housing bubble burst. Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good, rather than poor.

Builders' view of current sales conditions for single-family homes, their outlook for sales over the next six months and traffic by prospective buyers each increased in the latest survey.

The optimism comes despite a steady slowdown in U.S. sales of new homes this summer. Sales fell from a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 454,000 in May to a rate of 412,000 in July. Still, sales of new homes are running ahead of last year's pace.

Economists project that sales accelerated in August to a rate of 429,000, according to FactSet. August sales figures are due out next week.

The U.S. economy added jobs at a solid clip through much of this year, though the gains slowed in August. Last month, employ-

ers added just 142,000 jobs, well below the 212,000 average of the previous 12 months.

The job gains this year and a pickup in home values have spurred homeowners to trade up to a nicer home. But fewer homes are being purchased by first-time homebuyers.

A mix of rising home prices,

higher mortgage rates and meager wage growth has made it more difficult for would-be homebuyers to purchase a newly built home, particularly first-time buyers.

Even so, many of the largest U.S. homebuilders have posted sales gains this year. On Wednesday, Miami-based Lennar Corp. re-

ported that its completed home sales climbed 9 percent in the three months ended Aug. 31, while new home orders vaulted 23 percent. Its shares added \$2.66, or 6.8 percent, to \$41.79 in morning trading. The stock has risen 19 percent in the last 12 months. In the latest NAHB index, which was based on re-

sponses from 317 builders, builder confidence improved nationally and on a regional basis, with readings for the Midwest, West, Northeast and South all posting gains from last month.

The index gauging current sales conditions for single-family homes climbed five points to 63, the highest level since December. The builders' outlook for sales over the next six months rose two points to 67. The last time it was higher was a year ago.

Meanwhile, a measure of traffic by prospective buyers increased five points to 47, the highest level since October 2005.

Housing, while still a long way from the boom of several years ago, has been recovering over the past two years.

Though new homes represent only a fraction of the housing market, they have an outsized impact on the economy. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in tax revenue, according to NAHB data. □



A crane lifts a load of drywall as construction is under way at a housing development in Zelienople, Pa. The National Association of Home Builders reported positive news on sentiment among U.S. builders on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014. (AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

## US current account deficit dips to \$98.5B

**M. CRUTSINGER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. current account trade deficit narrowed slightly in the April-June quarter, reflecting gains in exports of oil and civilian aircraft and a bigger surplus in Americans' overseas investment earnings.

The deficit in the current account shrank to \$98.5 billion in the second quarter, down 3.5 percent from the revised \$102.1 billion deficit in the January-March period, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

It was the smallest current account deficit since an imbalance of \$87.3 billion in the final three months of last year. The lower deficit reflected a variety of factors including gains in U.S. exports and a larger surplus in earnings by Americans in their overseas investments.

The current account is the broadest measure of trade, covering not only the flow of goods and services but also investment flows. Economists carefully track the current account deficit because it is a measure of how much foreign financing the country needs. The second quarter deficit represented 2.3 percent of total economic output, as measured by the gross domestic product, down from 2.4 percent in the first quarter. The highest deficit as a percentage of GDP was 6.3 percent set in the fourth quarter of 2005. The quarterly deficits regularly topped \$150 billion in the four years before the

Great Recession of 2007-2009. The downturn cut into domestic demand and pushed the deficits lower. The U.S. has benefited from a boom in oil and gas production, mostly because new drilling technologies have made it feasible to drill for oil and gas in states such as North Dakota, New York and Pennsylvania. That has pushed down the trade deficit by boosting petroleum exports and also reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil. □

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## FedEx to add 50,000 seasonal holiday jobs

**DAVID KOENIG**  
AP Business Writer

**DALLAS (AP)** — Growth in online shopping is boosting profit at FedEx, and the company plans to hire more than 50,000 extra workers to handle what is shaping up as another record year for holiday-season package deliveries. That's up from about 40,000 temporary holiday workers hired last year.

The hiring plan from FedEx Corp. came a day after rival UPS said it would hire up to 95,000 seasonal workers. Both companies are trying to avoid the problems that plagued them last year, when they were inundated by more holiday shipments than they expected and some packages didn't arrive until after Christmas. FedEx Corp. announced Wednesday that it earned \$606 million in the June-through-August quarter, up 24 percent from the same period in 2013. The results beat expectations, and the stock rose more than 3 percent in afternoon trading.

CEO and Chairman Fred Smith said the company was helped by strength in the ground-shipping segment, solid volume and revenue increases at the freight division and growth in U.S. volumes for the core FedEx Express business. "We expect continued revenue and earnings growth in fiscal year '15," which ends next May, "assuming moderate global economic growth and stable fuel prices," Smith said on a conference call with investors.

The holidays are a crucial part of the year for FedEx, and the company will

again be challenged by a compressed peak season. Thanksgiving, the traditional kickoff to the season, falls late again this year — Nov. 27. That will push so-called Cyber Monday, one of the biggest days for online shopping, back to Dec. 1.

Executive vice president Michael Glenn said FedEx expects another record

are talking with retailers about other steps to avoid a repeat of last year's delivery problems, but they declined to detail those discussions.

Memphis, Tennessee-based FedEx said its fiscal first-quarter earnings equaled \$2.10 per share, up from \$1.53 per share a year ago. Analysts surveyed by FactSet expect-

pany is aided by growth in the economy and online shopping, "but what is really helping FedEx is their cost-reduction initiative for the express segment," he said.

The company's goal is to cut annual costs by \$1.7 billion, mostly at the express unit and largely through voluntary buyouts to shed jobs. The plan is designed



**Mitchell Rodgers loads packages into his delivery truck at the FedEx Express station in Nashville, Tenn. FedEx Corp., on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014, reported profit of \$606 million in its fiscal first quarter.**

season for delivery volumes, and that explains the plan to hire more temporary drivers, package handlers and other workers.

Both FedEx and UPS were caught short last holiday season. FedEx had announced it would hire 20,000 temporary workers, but wound up adding twice that number, a spokesman said Wednesday. United Parcel Service Inc. planned to add 55,000 seasonal workers but ended up hiring 85,000.

FedEx officials said they

ed \$1.96 per share.

Revenue rose 6 percent to \$11.68 billion, topping Wall Street's forecast of \$11.48 billion.

The ground-delivery segment accounted for about one-fourth of FedEx revenue but was more profitable than the much larger express-delivery business. Revenue rose in both businesses and at the smaller freight-shipping segment.

"It was another solid quarter for FedEx," said Logan Purk, an analyst with Edward Jones who rates the stock a "hold." The com-

to offset a shift by customers from pricey air deliveries to slower but cheaper services. Despite beating expectations in the quarter, FedEx did not change its forecast for the full fiscal year. It still expects to earn between \$8.50 and \$9 per share through May 2015. Analysts predict full-year earnings of \$8.84 per share. The earnings report came one day after FedEx announced that it will raise U.S. rates for express, ground and home-delivery shipments by an average of 4.9 percent on Jan. 5. □

## Kohl's holiday hiring to rise 15% for 2014

**A. D'INNOCENZIO**  
AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Kohl's Corp. plans to hire more than 67,000 seasonal workers nationwide for the holiday shopping season, which the company said is a 15 percent increase over last year.

The department store operator declined to specify how many seasonal workers it hired last year other than to say it was "more than 50,000."

This year, it expects to hire an average of 50 associates per store, up 25 percent from a year ago. Kohl's, based in Menomonee Falls, Wis., operates 1,163 stores in 49 states. It also expects to hire 9,300 people for jobs at its distribution centers and 670 people for seasonal positions in its credit operations.

A retailer's hiring plans can indicate its expectations for the holiday shopping season, which accounts for 20 percent of the retail industry's annual sales, according to the National Retail Federation.

FedEx Corp. also said Wednesday it plans to increase holiday hiring. It says it anticipates hiring more than 50,000 extra workers to handle another record year for holiday season package deliveries. That's more than double last year, when FedEx announced it would hire 20,000 seasonal workers.

UPS on Tuesday said it plans to hire up to 95,000 workers to help deliver packages during the busy holiday season — an increase from last year, when the company was caught unprepared for a surge in online shopping. □

## America's marijuana industry is battling stoner stereotypes

KRISTEN WYATT  
Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — The marijuana industry and activists are starting an ad blitz in Colorado aimed at promoting moderation and the safe consumption, trying to counter ominous anti-drug campaigns and stereotypes of pot users. The campaign is a direct response to the state's post-legalization marijuana-education efforts. Voters in Colorado and Washington state approved laws in 2012 legalizing marijuana, the first states in the U.S. to do so.

To get their message across, activists are skewering decades of ads that have focused on the fears of marijuana, including the "This is your brain on drugs" fried-egg ad that became emblematic of the U.S. Drug War in the 1980s. The ads would show a white egg with a voiceover saying "this is your brain." Then it would show a fried egg in a pan and the voice would declare, "this is your brain on drugs." They are planning posters, brochures, billboards and magazine ads to caution consumers to use the drug responsibly and warn tourists and first-timers about the potential to get sick from accidentally eating too much medical-grade pot. "So far, every campaign designed to educate the public about marijuana has relied on fear-mongering and insulting marijuana users," said Mason Tvert, spokesman for the Marijuana Policy Project, the nation's biggest pot-policy advocacy group. The MPP plans to unveil a billboard on Wednesday on a west Denver street where many pot shops are located that shows a woman slumped in a hotel room with the tagline: "Don't let a candy bar ruin your vacation."

It's an allusion to Maureen Dowd, a New York Times columnist who got sick from eating one on a visit to write about pot. Many in the industry said

the state-backed ads show stereotypical stoners instead of average adults. One of them is intended to prevent stoned driving and shows men zoning out while trying to play basketball, light a grill or hang a television.

Even more concerning to activists is a youth-education campaign that relies on a human-sized cage and the message, "Don't Be a Lab Rat," along with warnings about pot and developing brains.

The cage in Denver has been repeatedly vandalized. At least one school district rejected the traveling exhibit, saying it was well-intentioned but inappropriate.

A spokesman for the state Health Department welcomed the industry's ads, and defended the "lab rat" campaign. "It's been effective in starting a conversation about potential risks to youth from marijuana," Mark Salley said.

The dueling campaigns come at a time when the industry is concerned about inexperienced consumers using edible pot. The popularity of edibles surprised some in the industry when legal-marijuana retail sales began in January. Edible pot products have been blamed for at least one death, of a Congolese exchange student who jumped to his death in Denver in March after consuming six times the recommended dose of edible marijuana.

The headlines, including Dowd's experience, have been enough for the industry to promote moderation with edible pot.

"I think the word has gotten out that you need to be careful with edibles," said Steve Fox, head of the Denver-based Council for Responsible Cannabis Regulation.

The group organized the "First Time 5" campaign, which cautions that new users shouldn't eat more than 5 milligrams of marijuana's psychoactive ingredient, or half a suggested serving. □

## Lumber town takes stock after wildfire

JEFF BARNARD  
Associated Press

**WEED, California (AP)** — The inferno that swirled through the California lumber town of Weed moved so quickly all people could do was flee.

In just a few hours, wind-driven flames destroyed or damaged 150 structures,

hillside neighborhood. Officials said a significant number of the structures burned were houses; three firefighters lost their homes in the blaze. The cause is still under investigation.

"It went through here so fast it was unbelievable. I've never seen anything like this," Jim Taylor, a re-

On Tuesday, chimneys were the only thing still standing in the rubble, and broken pipes spurted water over the blackened landscape. The remnants of the Holy Family Catholic Church were still smoldering, its metal girders twisted on the ground.

"I mean it was devastat-



Firefighters hose down a hot spot in the rubble of a home that was destroyed by a wildfire in Weed, Calif. In just a few hours, wind-driven flames destroyed or damaged roughly 100 homes earlier this week.

(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

a saw mill and a church. At times, the fire moved so fast that residents had only a few minutes to get out of the way.

On Wednesday, the "Weed Like To Welcome You" town sign still stood, but nothing else was normal as stunned residents assessed the damage, took stock of what they lost and gave thanks for what was saved. "At the peak, essentially the entire town was evacuated," state fire spokesman Robert Foxworthy said.

Disastrous as the fire was for the community of 3,000 people, daybreak brought gratitude and relief that there were no reports of death or even serious injuries.

The intense blaze erupted Monday south of Weed. Elsewhere in the state, hundreds of firefighters battled about a dozen other persistent blazes.

Winds gusting up to 40 mph (64 kph) pushed the flames into town, where they quickly chewed through a

tired butcher who has lived in the town for 30 years said Tuesday. "I'm not a real religious person, but somebody was looking out for me."

Taylor said fire bombers dropped retardant over his house. As his home and his deck furniture turned pink from the retardant, another house nearby erupted into flames.

Across the street, pine and oak trees were burned to a crisp, and small flames and smoke drifted up from chunky embers.

The town and the forest that surrounds it were a tinderbox after three years of drought. And Weed's winds are notorious. The steady breezes were what attracted town founder Abner Weed to build his lumber business there in 1897, after he realized that wood dried more quickly when fanned by nature.

The town's saw mill, once the world's largest, was among the structures damaged in the blaze.

ing," said Maureen Campbell, the church's music minister who was baptized, confirmed and married at the church, along with her children. She lost her home to the fire.

"The house up there is no big deal. It can be rebuilt," she said. "But this is my family church, you know? It's much more endearing to me."

Fire crews took advantage of calmer winds and fire-fighting aircraft Tuesday, gaining control in and around Weed. By Tuesday evening, the 375-acre (152-hectare) fire was 25 percent contained. Flames still threatened in other parts of California.

Meanwhile, a wildfire north of the town of Pollock Pines, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) east of Sacramento, has forced the evacuation of at least 700 homes. The wildfire has blackened about 20 square miles (52 square kilometers) of forest land. It was only 5 percent contained. □

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## AP Interview: Iraq premier nixes US ground troops

**VIVIAN SALAMA  
QASSIM ZAHRA  
Associated Press**

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Iraq's new prime minister ruled out stationing U.S. ground

ing the "puzzling" exclusion of neighboring Iran from the coalition being assembled to fight the Islamic State group.

Haider al-Abadi has been

Iraq. But his forthrightness in an interview with The Associated Press — his first with international media — suggested a man capable of parting ways on vision and

overrun much of northern and western Iraq and carved out a proto-state spanning the Syria-Iraq border, saying it has helped efforts to roll back the Sunni extremists.

But he stressed that he sees no need for the U.S. or other nations to send troops into Iraq to help fight the Islamic State.

"Not only is it not necessary," he said, "We don't want them. We won't allow them. Full stop."

Instead, al-Abadi urged the international community to expand its campaign against the extremists in neighboring Syria, noting that militants coming under pressure in Iraq are retreating back into Syria.

The comments provided a sharp rebuttal to remarks a day earlier by the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, who told the Senate Armed Services Committee that American ground troops may be needed to battle Islamic State forces in the Middle East if President Barack Obama's current strategy fails.

On Wednesday, the Republican-controlled House voted to give the U.S. military authority to train and arm moderate Syrian rebels, with final approval expected in the Senate as early as Thursday.

However, Obama emphasized anew that American forces "do not and will not have a combat mission" in the struggle against the militants. "As your commander in chief, I will not commit you and the rest of our armed forces to fighting another ground war in Iraq," Obama told troops at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida.

Last week, Obama outlined a plan that includes a broader military campaign in Iraq, increased support and training for Syrian rebel groups, and expanded airstrikes against the militants in Syria.

Al-Abadi, a veteran Shiite lawmaker who spent 20 years in exile in Britain prior to the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, faces the enormous task of trying to hold Iraq together amid the growing security and political challenges.

The Iraqi premier said that the Iraqi military will choose and approve targets, and that the U.S. will not take action without consulting with Baghdad first. Failure to do so, he warned, risks causing widespread civilian casualties as has happened in Pakistan and Yemen, where the U.S. has conducted drone strikes for years.

"The only contribution the American forces or the international coalition are going to help us with is from the sky," al-Abadi said. "We are not giving any blank check to the international coalition to hit any target in Iraq." □



**Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014. Iraq's new prime minister says foreign ground troops are neither necessary nor wanted in his country's fight against the Islamic State group.**

(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

troops in his country, chiding the international community Wednesday for inaction in Syria and lament-

embraced by the West as a more inclusive leader who might heal the internal rifts that have dismembered

holding his ground.

Al-Abadi praised the U.S. aerial campaign targeting the militants who have

## East Ukraine casualties rise as rebels reject deal

**MSTYSLAV CHERNOV  
Associated Press**

**DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)** — Shelling in rebel-held parts of east Ukraine killed at least 12 civilians on Wednesday, as a top leader of pro-Russian rebels rejected Ukrainian legislation meant to end the unrest by granting self-rule to large swaths of the east.

The city council of Donetsk, the largest rebel stronghold, said that shelling killed two people in the city Wednesday and wounded three others. In a separate statement published on-

line, the press center for Kiev's military campaign in the east said that at least 10 civilians in the town of Nyzhnya Krynka, 20 kilometers east of Donetsk, had been killed by shelling.

Since a cease-fire imposed on Sept. 5, the fighting in Donetsk has been primarily limited to the north of the city, where many residential neighborhoods have been caught in the cross-fire of battles centered on the government-controlled airport.

On Wednesday, an AP reporter in that area of

Donetsk saw the remains of what appeared to be a Grad rocket in a burned-out building. There was one body visible at the scene.

The cease-fire has been much violated from the start and civilian casualties have continued to rise, adding to the estimated 3,000 people killed since fighting started in April.

On Tuesday, Ukrainian parliament took a step to resolve the crisis by passing laws that would grant greater autonomy to rebel-held parts of the east, as well as amnesty for many

of the separatists, a major concession to both Moscow and the rebels.

But in an interview with The Associated Press in Donetsk on Wednesday, rebel leader Andrei Purgin said that the separatist leadership was not willing to allow Donetsk and Luhansk to remain part of Ukraine.

"We perceive this as a document in which we can find certain points to start a dialogue," Purgin said. "But there is a red line we cannot cross: we do not accept any political unions." □

# Bad vaccine kills up to 50 children in northern Syria

**RICK GLADSTONE**

**HWAIDA SAAD**

© 2014 New York Times

Spoiled or possibly sabotaged measles vaccine has killed as many as 50 children in insurgent-held areas of northwestern Syria, forcing a suspension of a large-scale vaccination campaign intended to stop the spread of measles, mumps, rubella and polio, volunteer medical organizations reported Wednesday.

day.

The victims, some of them infants, apparently all died on Tuesday, mostly concentrated in the cities of Jarjanaz and Sinjar in Idlib province, an area controlled by forces opposed to President Bashar Assad. These opposition forces have sought to function as an interim government and provide basic health care services, including inoculations and vaccina-

tions to children, given the collapse of Syria's public health care system since the civil war began more than three years ago. Dozens of other children in Idlib were reported to have been sickened by the vaccine.

Dr. Abdulla Ajaj, a physician who helped administer the vaccine, said the suspect batch of doses had been received three days before they

were used. "This is the first time we have had such a problem," he said in a Skype interview.

The provenance of the vaccine was not immediately clear, but Ajaj speculated that the doses may have been stored at improperly high temperatures. "Most probably they were badly kept inside the fridges," he said.

The Syrian American Medical Society, which organizes

medical missions to Syria and runs a hospital in Idlib, said recipients of the bad vaccine began displaying symptoms within minutes, including shortness of breath,

slowed heart rate, wheezing and inflammation of the larynx.

The group's own facility saw at least 65 patients, it said in a statement, and 15 were dead on arrival, all under the age of 1. □

# Russian billionaire tycoon is placed on house arrest

**ANDREW ROTH**

© 2014 New York Times

**MOSCOW** - The house arrest of a prominent Russian billionaire sent shock waves through the Russian stock market on Wednesday in a case that for its sheer size, if nothing else, was already drawing comparisons to the jailing of oil tycoon Mikhail B. Khodorkovsky.

Vladimir P. Evtushenkov, the majority shareholder in the conglomerate Sistema, was accused of money laundering in connection with the company's acquisition of shares in the oil producer Bashneft, Russia's Investigative Committee said in a statement Tuesday evening.

Evtushenkov, whose worth is estimated by Forbes Russia at \$9 billion, is the richest man in Russia to face prosecution since Khodor-



**FILE** - In this 2005 file photo Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, chairs a meeting in the Kremlin with Vladimir Evtushenkov, second left, in Moscow, Russia. Russia's top investigative agency says it has filed money-laundering charges against the billionaire tycoon Evtushenkov.

(AP Photo/Alexei Panov, File)

kovsky, who at the time he was arrested was the country's wealthiest individual. Unlike Khodorkovsky, however, he has never dabbled in opposition politics,

fueling speculation that business interests, possibly involving the Russian state oil company Rosneft, stood behind Evtushenkov's recent legal troubles.

"In Yukos the most important motivation was to punish Khodorkovsky," Sergei M. Guriev, an economist and former rector of the New Economic School

in Moscow who fled Russia last year, said by telephone Wednesday. Guriev added, "Evtushenkov has never been vocal or active in politics. And this is related to business apparently." The Kremlin denied on Tuesday that politics played a role in the arrest and said that Evtushenkov's guilt or innocence would be established in court.

"Any attempts to paint this story with political colors have no right to exist," said Dmitri S. Peskov, the personal spokesman for President Vladimir Putin, the RIA Novosti news agency reported Tuesday.

A Rosneft spokesman also denied that the company had any connection with the arrest or had held talks with Bashneft, the oil company in which Evtushenkov's company holds a controlling stake. □

# Officials: Ebola could devastate West African economies

**SHERI FINK**

© 2014 New York Times

The three West African countries most affected by Ebola could experience a "potentially catastrophic blow" to their economies because of the epidemic, the World Bank Group warned Wednesday.

The outbreak could cut gross domestic product by nearly 12 percent in Liberia and nearly 9 percent in Sierra Leone in 2015 if it is not curbed, according to the report. The effect on Guinea would be less severe, at around 2 percent.

A fear of contagion and

what the bank referred to as "aversion behavior" is driving most of the economic losses. Places of employment are being closed, transportation is being disrupted, and vital links with other nations by air and sea are being cut, the analysis found.

The pattern is consistent with recent infectious disease outbreaks, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, and H1N1 flu, during which behavioral changes accounted for 80-90 percent of the economic losses, according to bank estimates.

"The fear of contagion has helped fuel an economic crisis," Dr. Jim Yong Kim, the bank's president, said in a news conference.

If the virus spreads to other African nations, the costs could reach billions of dollars, "depending on the scenario, potentially many billions of dollars," Kim said. Decreased labor supply is a smaller factor in the losses in West Africa, stemming from illnesses, deaths and caregiving. These are related not only to Ebola, but also to other diseases left untreated because health systems have collapsed as

medical workers fell ill or refused to work because of the risks and a lack of protective supplies.

The bank said that both food prices and inflation were rising as a result of "shortages, panic buying and speculation." Exchange rates were also increasingly volatile.

The bank's analysis was based on the World Health Organization's epidemic projections released several weeks ago. But on Tuesday, WHO issued an even more dire report after finding that the number of Ebola cases has doubled in

the past three weeks.

Still, Kim said that 80 to 90 percent of the economic effect could be blunted "if we get an effective response on the ground in the next few months."

The bank prepared estimates of a rosier scenario, with strong Ebola containment efforts, which it said could reduce losses in economic output in 2015 to between 1 and 4 percent in the three countries, totaling \$97 million - as opposed to \$809 million in the more severe scenario. In 2014, economic output is expected to drop \$359 million. □

# Trade, investment hopes as China's Xi visits India

R.K. MISRA  
KATY DAIGLE

**Associated Press**  
**AHMEDABAD, India (AP)**

— Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in the Indian prime minister's home state of Gujarat on Wednesday for a three-day visit expected to focus on India's need to improve worn out infrastructure and reduce its trade deficit.

Xi was greeted on the tarmac by state officials carrying fringed umbrellas to guard him from the sun in Gujarat's main financial city of Ahmedabad.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to court Chinese business and seek investment to upgrade creaky infrastructure, banking on China's track record at building highways, railways, and industrial zones. India is also eager to address the imbalance in their annual trade, which now totals around \$65 billion but is skewed toward imports of Chinese electrical equipment and parts.

Modi and the Gujarat government are staging a lavish welcome for Xi, with billboards across Ahmedabad showing a smiling Modi and Xi. A banquet dinner was being held Wednesday night on the banks of the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad. Modi was also celebrating his 64th birthday.

Xi has been equally effusive in expressing excitement for the visit.

"China-India relations have become one of the most dynamic and promising bilateral relations in the 21st century," Xi wrote in an article published Wednesday in The Hindu newspaper.



**Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, second left and Chinese President Xi Jinping, right walk on the Sabarmati River front in Ahmedabad, India, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014. Xi landed in Modi's home state of Gujarat on Wednesday for a three-day visit expected to focus on India's need to improve worn out infrastructure and reduce its trade deficit.**

(AP Photo/Ajit Solanki)

The choice of Gujarat as Xi's first stop in India, rather than the capital New Delhi, marked a departure

from protocol that some saw as a sign of warming ties between China and India. Relations had been tested by a decades-old border dispute and fears of China's growing military and economic might. Xi

both traditional allies of India who have unnerved New Delhi by growing closer to Beijing.

Modi appeared to be unbothered by those visits, aluding Tuesday to ancient Sino-Indian ties dating to a Chinese Buddhist monk, Xuan Zang, who spent time in Modi's village in Gujarat in 600 AD.

"Through the medium of Buddhism, India and China, especially China and Gujarat have developed very close relations," Modi said, addressing Chinese media.

India, with its 1.2 billion population surpassed only by China's 1.4 billion, has also long aimed at becoming the next massive cheap labor economy. Modi has pledged to streamline business and build up industry to make that happen.

"India and China today constitute almost 35 percent of the world's population. From a purely arithmetic point of view ... that they decide to work together will open big gates for progress and development in the world," Modi said. But not everyone in Gujarat was excited about the Chinese leader's visit.

Traders and small business owners have grown increasingly nervous about the calls for warmer relations and increased trade between India and China, fearing they'll be sidelined by Chinese competitors. □

## IN BRIEF

### Caricom urges preparation for possible Ebola

**GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)**

— A Caribbean trade bloc is urging governments to establish isolation facilities and take other preventive measures in case the Ebola virus reaches the region. Caricom's secretariat said in a statement Wednesday that the recommendation was backed at a meeting of government officials and the Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency. No cases of Ebola have been reported originating in the region, though an outbreak in West Africa has killed at least 2,400 people. Caricom said leaders also should review their response to an outbreak of the chikungunya virus. Across the Caribbean, the Pan American Health Organization has recorded nearly 700,000 suspected and confirmed cases as of Sept. 12.

### In Colombia, Uribe grilled by lawmakers

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)**

— Former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe is being grilled by lawmakers over allegations of ties to drug-traffickers and right-wing paramilitaries. Wednesday's questioning before a Senate committee was convoked by leftist Sen. Ivan Cepeda, who presented allegations of criminal links that have dogged Uribe throughout his political career. Many involve Uribe's family, and they date from the start of his political career in Medellin when the city was dominated by Pablo Escobar's cartel. Uribe walked out of the legislature to protest what he called a "moral lynching" promoted by the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The still popular Uribe is the most fervent opponent of President Juan Manuel Santos and analysts consider the debate an attempt to isolate him politically as the government negotiates a peace deal with the rebels. □

## Venezuelan activists discuss explosives in video

JORGE RUEDA  
JOSHUA GOODMAN

**Associated Press**  
**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— Two Venezuelan activists recently deported by Colombia have surfaced in a video that purportedly shows them discussing plans to stockpile weapons and launch attacks on government targets in apparent attempt to destabilize President Nicolas Maduro's rule. The video, which aired Monday night on a TV program known for battering the government's foes, apparently contains excerpts from a Skype video conference Lorent Saleh and Gabriel Valles had with an

unidentified third person, whose voice is distorted. It's not clear when the recording took place or how it was obtained. Its veracity could not be independently confirmed.

But in it the two students, apparently speaking from inside Colombia, freely boast of all sorts of covert plans. Operating under a diplomatic "facade" provided by a human rights group, Saleh remarks on plans for weapons training in Colombia's capital and how he obtained two bricks of C4 explosives to "blow up" liquor stores, bars and eventually storm the offices of the National Electoral

Council in the western state of Tachira, a hotbed of anti-government unrest earlier this year.

"We're missing the ammunition and rifles but we're going to arrange this with the people from Bogota," Saleh says at one point. In the video, the activists also make a passing mention of conservative, former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, a favorite bete noire of the Maduro government who frequently sparred with the late Hugo Chavez. Uribe was one of the first voices to criticize President Juan Manuel Santos' decision to deport the two activists, calling it a "national

shame."

Lawyers for the jailed students and the group they belong to, Operation Liberty, didn't return calls seeking comment.

It's unclear whether the activists acted on the apparent threats, which seem farfetched to many in both Colombia and Venezuela. But the mere existence of the video, and photos leaked in Colombia showing Saleh carrying what looks like an assault rifle, are likely to further embolden government hardliners who accuse Maduro's opponents of trying to violently overthrow his 17-month-old socialist administration. □



## Loyal Visitors Honored at the Renaissance Ocean Suites

**ORANJESTAD** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Renaissance Ocean Suites, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.



The honorees were Craig and Elizabeth Heldreth and their daughters Britany and Allison Heldreth, from McDonough, Georgia, Joe and Deborah Paulo and their son Ayden Paulo, from Somers, Connecticut, Lorraine Lobacz from Norwich, Connecticut, Patricia Bofill from Southold, New York, and Ricky Godfrey. All the hon-



orees are loyal members of the Renaissance Ocean Suites, and they love the Island very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants and the diver-

sity of the island. Aruba feels like a second home to these guests and the people are like a family to them. The Heldreth and Paulo family wore a very nice shirt commemorating their 10th



anniversary of visiting the Island, something that the Aruba Tourism Authority appreciates very much. The certificate was presented

by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Tino representing the Renaissance Ocean Suites. □

## Arubapalooza & Bugaloe: Match Made in Fun Heaven!



**PALM BEACH-** Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill, located on the Palm Pier between Radisson Resort and Riu Hotel, was recently selected to be the host of a fun group of people. The fun group includes all North American journalists from several big media outlets like: Departures Magazine, Wine Enthusiast and Dine Magazine, but also online platforms reaching out to millions of people like EDGE, Luxury Travel Mom and The Mom Reviews. Invited by the Aruba Tourism Authority in collaboration with The Zimmerman Group, the journalists



were treated on a 3-day Arubapalooza event! During this event, the journalists discovered Aruba, touring around several significant Aruban experiences. Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, Bugaloe had the pleasure of welcoming the group, and showing them what the best beach bar in Aruba has to offer. A mojito in one hand with perfect sunset views. The event was a great success for Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill, who hope to welcome the group back again soon. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

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**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

**"One Happy Hotel on One Happy Island"**

## Mr. Marriott Highlights the Aruba Marriott in His Blog



**PALM BEACH** - Mr. Bill Marriott, Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board of Marriott International recently highlighted a recent TripAdvisor review of the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino with title "One happy hotel on a one happy island" in his most recent blog post as an example of a success story.

Mr. Marriott is known to have his blog 'On The Move' carefully thought through, therefore hav-

ing him choose the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino's TripAdvisor page as his headline photo for his recent post, exhibits his confidence and pride in the staff of the hotel. With 104 reviews received within a month, the hotel continuously works towards exceeding guest expectations and attaining excellent reviews on TripAdvisor. "I am very proud in what we do here at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, we have an amaz-

ing team that continually works toward creating fantastic experiences for our guests. These same guests are telling the whole world how great we are by posting their reviews on TripAdvisor and there is no greater seal of approval than being recognized by one's customers", shared Matt Knights, Hotel Manager of the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, located on coveted Palm Beach,

boasts 411 guestrooms each with private balconies overlooking cascading waterfalls, a free form swimming pool and tranquil Caribbean waters. Guest exclusivity is attainable on the eighth floor through the Tradewinds Club, a boutique, 'hotel-within-a-hotel' concept that is paired perfectly with the new adults-only pool and lounge area. On property dining options range from light to elegant with seven restaurants and cafes, while en-

tertainment and relaxation can be achieved in the island's largest casino, or in the 6,500 square-foot spa. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1.800.228.9290 or visit [www.arubamarriott.com](http://www.arubamarriott.com) or [www.tradewindsclubaruba.com](http://www.tradewindsclubaruba.com). Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting [www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott](http://www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott) and follow us on Twitter @ArubaMarriott. □

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## You can help our 'Waiter' and the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary!

**BRINGAMOSA** - We would like to introduce Waiter to you, one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. Named after the Kellner family (kelner in Dutch translates into waiter), who was instrumental in catching this donkey. Unfortunately this kind animal has a broken leg and the future will tell whether he can still be operated. When a donkey has had a broken leg for too long, the bone grows back crookedly. And because nobody knows how long

Waiter has been limping along before coming to the Sanctuary, x-rays will tell us what needs to be done to be able to give this donkey a good life within a protected environment. Until then the volunteers give him extra attention and treats and he is lapping it up! This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot

of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary. The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation.

Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream. The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep.

With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org) or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. ☐



Baltimore Orioles manager Buck Showalter, right center, hugs catcher Matt Wieters after a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, in Baltimore. Baltimore won 8-2 to clinch the American League East.

Associated Press  
Page 21

## Column: Time for Goodell to really say something

**TIM DAHLBERG**

**AP Sports Columnist**

Boxing champ Floyd Mayweather Jr., who has spent some time in jail for abusing women himself, was speaking some truth when he briefly rose to embattled NFL player Ray Rice's defense last week while promoting his latest fight.

"I think there's a lot worse things that go on in other people's households, also," Mayweather said. "It's just not caught on video."

It didn't take long for Mayweather's point to be made. What went on in the

Minnesota Vikings' Adrian Peterson's household with a defenseless 4-year-old boy had to be so sickening that we can only be thankful there is no video of him wielding the wrong end of a tree branch against his son. Surely the suddenly reclusive NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell must have understood that, even if the owners of the Vikings didn't. They thought they could shove Peterson back on the field much the same way they bullied taxpayers into building the team a billion-dollar stadium now un-

der construction in downtown Minneapolis.

That's the way it's always been done in the NFL. Don't like something? Well, too bad. We'll do it anyway, and odds are you will end up picking up the tab. But the rules have changed, if ever so slightly. Instead of cheerleading the way he did for the new stadium, Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton called the decision to allow Peterson to play a public embarrassment for the state and the team.

**Continued on Page 18**



In this Dec. 29, 2013, file photo, Carolina Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy (76) sits on the bench during the second half of an NFL game against the Atlanta Falcons in Atlanta.

Associated Press

## Column

Continued from Page 17

Meanwhile, Radisson hotels had already pulled its sponsorship of the team, and major sponsors like Budweiser started making noises that they were getting uncomfortable with the way things were going down in the NFL.

The golden goose was being threatened, something the 32 owners who split revenues approaching \$10 billion a year fear more than anything.

A light went on in the middle of the night in Minnesota, and owners Zygi and Mark Wilf reversed themselves.

Peterson won't play this week, and there's a good chance he won't play at all the rest of the season as he deals with child abuse charges in Texas.

"We made a mistake and we need to get this right," Zygi Wilf said at a hastily called press conference.

The Vikings owners aren't alone. The NFL has been doing nothing but making mistakes since the first video surfaced of Rice's fiancée Janay Palmer lying unconscious in the doorway of an Atlantic City casino elevator.

Unfortunately, as shown with how the Peterson situation was handled, it has yet to get much right.

Usually that wouldn't matter. The league is Teflon coated, so popular that even the sight of former players punch drunk from their playing days doesn't stop people from watching.

That's not going to change because of the uproar over domestic violence with the airing of the Rice video.

It won't change because Peterson has been charged with felony child abuse, and pictures of his son with injuries that went way beyond a simple spanking circulate on the Internet.

Ratings in prime time were the best ever NFL opening week, and 22 million people watched San Francisco play Chicago on Sunday night, even while Goodell was absent from his planned appearance at the regular season opening of the billion dollar new stadium of the 49ers.

Men and women alike wore Rice jerseys to opening night in Baltimore despite a trade-in program to rid the stands of them. And in Minnesota, a woman wearing a Peterson jersey even brought a tree



In this Sept. 7, 2014, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson carries the ball against the St. Louis Rams during the third quarter an NFL football game in St. Louis.

Associated Press

branch to carry around at a Sunday tailgate party. Must have been a laughing it up with others while drinking their official league-sanctioned Bud Light beers. Best yet, the Halloween costume for this year already taken care of. Through it all, Goodell remains incommunicado, waiting for the perfect storm he could have never imagined blows over before getting back to earning his \$44 million a year. His job seems safe, with billionaire owners falling

over themselves to offer their continued support for a commissioner that has helped nearly double the value of their franchises during his time in office. But at a time when public leadership is needed most, Goodell is missing in action. He has had little to offer about the Rice uproar other than a few interviews that were quickly outdated and a few appointments that were quickly panned. And he hasn't said anything publicly about Peterson.

Not a word of outrage over the injuries the boy suffered. Not a word of caution to players that even if you were brought up this way, in today's world you don't beat your children.

Surely Goodell has seen the pictures of the injuries suffered by Peterson's son. It can't be that he's waiting for video of the star running back with tree branch raised high,

like he did with Rice before finally taking some serious action.

While he's at it, the commissioner might want to tell us why Greg Hardy played for Carolina in the first game of the season despite his July 15 conviction of assault on a female and communicating threats.

Hardy was finally placed on the exempt-commissioner's permission list Wednesday, just hours after Peterson was added.

Call a press conference. Take all questions, and try to answer them honestly. Drop the arrogance. Display some humility.

Above all, make the millions of people who love everything about the NFL understand two simple things:

Real men don't hit women. And they don't beat defenseless children, either. □

## Arizona Cardinals RB arrested on assault charges

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Arizona Cardinals running back Jonathan Dwyer was arrested Wednesday on aggravated assault charges in connection with two altercations at his home in July involving a woman and an 18-month-old child, the latest in a string of such cases involving NFL players.

The Cardinals said they became aware of the situation on Wednesday and are cooperating with the investigation. Dwyer has been deactivated from all team activities. The NFL said the case will be reviewed under the league's personal-conduct policy. One of the counts was "aggravated assault causing a fracture" involving the 27-year-old victim, whom they did not identify. Police



This Sept. 17, 2014 booking photo provided by the Maricopa County, Ariz., Sheriff's Office shows Arizona Cardinals running back Jonathan Dwyer.

Associated Press

said they were carrying out a search warrant of his residence in pursuit of more

evidence. There was no reply to telephone message left for

Dwyer's agent, Adisa Bakari, seeking a comment Wednesday.

Authorities depicted a stormy relationship between Dwyer and the woman that escalated into violence on July 21, four days before the Cardinals reported to training camp. Neighbors heard a fight and called police, who showed up at the residence but left without making an arrest because Dwyer hid in the bathroom and the woman said no one else was at the home. "She said she was in an argument on the phone only," said Sgt. Trent Crump.

The next day, Crump said Dwyer snatched the woman's cellphone and threw it from the second floor of their residence to prevent her from calling police

about another dispute.

Crump said the woman moved out of state with the child, but came forward last week and provided police with information about her injuries and text messages indicating Dwyer "was going to harm himself because of what had been going on."

The NFL has been rocked by domestic violence issues ever since a videotape surfaced that showed former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice knocking out his then-fiancée in an Atlantic City elevator. Then Minnesota Vikings star running back Adrian Peterson was indicted on child-abuse charges. On Wednesday, the Carolina Panthers decided that star defensive end Greg Hardy will not play any more

## Lewis, Thompson gladly back at Alabama course

**PRATTVILLE, Ala. (AP)** — Stacy Lewis and Lexi Thompson have good reason to celebrate the LPGA Tour's return to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's Capitol Hill complex.

The two battled for the victory in 2012 on The Senator course, with current No. 1 Lewis winning by two strokes. Thompson was the LPGA Tour's youngest winner at the time when she won the 2011 tournament at 16.

Both will try to duplicate their success in the tour's return to Prattville for the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic. Play begins Thursday on the 6,607-yard, par-72 links-style course. The tournament was dropped from the schedule last year after losing its title sponsor.

"I was excited when this tournament came back on the schedule," said Lewis, a three-time winner this year. "It's a place that I've played a lot over the last five years and I love playing here. So it's a great golf course for both of us."

"We both hit it far enough that you can kind of take it over some corners and make a bunch of birdies."

This is the final full-field event of the year. Lewis and the eighth-ranked Thompson, the Kraft Nabisco winner in April for her first major title, are the only players in the top 10 competing.

That puts even more of the spotlight on two Americans who have thrived in

Alabama. Lewis also won the Mobile tournament in 2012. The field also includes No. 12 Cristie Kerr.

Former University of Alabama star Stephanie Meadow from Northern Ireland is in the field. She was third in the U.S. Women's Open in June in her professional debut.

"The field this week isn't probably what I think a lot of people would like, but I mean Lexi and I are here," Lewis said.

"There's a lot of good players, a lot of young players. This is the last full-field event for a lot of people. There's a lot on the line this week, so it should be good golf and it should be fun."

Thompson, meanwhile, said returning to Prattville "brings back a lot of great memories." She won at 16 three years ago, a record that has since been broken by Lydia Ko at 15.

Thompson is a veteran when it comes to choosing her breakfast spot when she's in town. She said she eats at the same Waffle House each morning, and the restaurant has "LEXI" spelled out across the windows.

"There's a woman there that cooks and sings while she cooks. Her name's Valerie," said Thompson, who skips the signature menu item before competing. "I'm friends with her on Facebook and everything, we keep in touch. It's so awesome to go back in there and just be relaxed. I mean, they're such great fans in there, too. Obviously, great breakfast, but it's so cool to drive by every morning and see 'Lexi' on the sign."

She'd like to see her name on the winner's check, too. □



Stacy Lewis and Lexi Thompson smile during the LPGA Classic Champions Challenge golf event on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, at Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capital Hill in Prattville, Ala. Thompson won the challenge by hitting four targets.

Associated Press



# Nationals clinch East by blanking Braves

## NATIONALS 3, BRAVES 0

**ATLANTA (AP)** — The Washington Nationals are again champions of the NL East, wrapping up their second division title in three years against the team that knocked them out of the top spot last season.

Tanner Roark pitched five-hit ball over seven innings, Ian Desmond's two-run homer broke a scoreless tie and the Nationals celebrated another trip to the playoffs with a victory over Atlanta.

The clinching victory was especially sweet coming against the Braves, who finished 10 games ahead of the Nationals in 2013. The roles were reserved this season as Washington steadily pulled away down the stretch.

Atlanta (75-76) lost for the 11th time in 14 games, further damaging its hopes of making a third straight playoff appearance as a wild card. The Braves have lost five straight and are under .500 for the first time since losing on opening day.

Roark (14-10) pitched



Washington Nationals pitcher Drew Storen (22) and catcher Wilson Ramos, left, celebrate on the field after clinching the NL East division in a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, in Atlanta. Washington won 3-0.

Associated Press

around four leadoff singles by Atlanta, which never got a runner past second base. Tyler Clippard worked a scoreless eighth,

and Drew Storen finished for his seventh save. The Nationals broke through in the sixth off Aaron Harang (11-11).

CUBS 7, REDS 0

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Jake Arrieta took a no-hit bid into the eighth inning before giving up Brandon Phillips' one-out double, the only blemish for the Chicago Cubs pitcher in a win over Cincinnati.

Arrieta (9-5) struck out 13 and walked one in his first career complete game. He was five outs from the first no-hitter at Wrigley Field in 42 years when Phillips drove an 0-2 pitch to deep left-center, just beyond the desperate dive of center fielder Matt Szczur on the warning track.

It was the third time this season Arrieta has flirted with a no-hitter.

Chicago gave Arrieta plenty of run support against Reds ace Johnny Cueto (18-9). Chris Coghlan capped a five-run sixth inning with a three-run double, and Jorge Soler homered in the seventh.

Arrieta retired 21 of the first 22 batters he faced before allowing Phillips' double. He issued a leadoff walk in the fourth to Billy Hamilton, who was caught stealing on the next pitch.

Cueto yielded six runs and five hits in 5 2-3 innings. He struck out eight.

BREWERS 3, CARDINALS 2, 12 innings

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Carlos Gomez walked, stole second and third and scored the go-ahead run on a bloop hit by rookie Hector Gomez in the 12th inning as Milwaukee ended NL Central-leading St. Louis' three-game winning streak.

Brandon Kintzler (3-3) got the last out in the 11th, and Francisco Rodriguez closed for his 42nd save in 47 chances. The third-place Brewers have won five of six and are four games back of St. Louis, which has a 2 1/2-game lead on Pittsburgh with 11 to go.

Gerardo Parra homered and rookie Matt Clark's sacrifice fly tied it against Trevor Rosenthal in the ninth. The Cardinals were blanked on four hits over the last 11 innings after jumping on Willy Peralta for two quick runs in the first. Lance Lynn worked seven

strong innings for St. Louis before Rosenthal was saddled with his sixth blown save in 50 chances.

Kevin Siegrist (1-4) took the loss.

ROCKIES 10, DODGERS 4

**DENVER (AP)** — Corey Dickerson homered, tripled and drove in four runs, Tyler Matzek pitched into the sixth inning by getting out of several tight spots, and Colorado snapped a seven-game skid with a win over the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Dodgers had Matzek (6-10) on the ropes, but couldn't produce the timely hit. They stranded 10 runners to drop 1 1-2 games behind Washington for the best record in the National League.

Matzek allowed two runs and 11 hits in 5 1-3 innings. He also had six strikeouts, including Juan Uribe twice to end threats.

Dan Haren (13-11) had a more productive evening at the plate than on the mound, where he struggled to find his rhythm as he allowed five runs in five innings. Haren had two singles off Matzek, and everyone in the lineup had a hit. It was a rare rough outing for Haren, who entered the game 5-1 with a 1.70 ERA over his previous seven starts.

GIANTS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Jake Peavy had another strong outing, Buster Posey homered, and San Francisco gained a game in the NL West race with a victory over Arizona.

The Giants are three games behind first-place Los Angeles with 11 to play. San Francisco snapped a three-game losing streak and remained 2 1/2 games ahead of Pittsburgh for the NL's top wild-card spot.

Peavy (6-4), acquired from Boston on July 26, allowed a run and five hits in 7 2-3 innings, striking out four and walking one. In his last five starts, he is 3-0 and has allowed a combined four runs.

Santiago Casilla pitched a perfect ninth for his 16th save in 20 opportunities.

## Fan heckling Harper in Atlanta ejected by umpire

### BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

**Major League** Baseball umpire Tim Welke heard a foul-mouthed fan heckling Bryce Harper and decided it was time for the man to go.

Welke took off his mask, pointed to the fan and ejected him from Turner Field in Atlanta during Tuesday night's game between the Washington Nationals and Braves.

"There's no place for that," Welke told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Forget that it was directed at that player. Enough is enough."

At a time when bad behavior in sports is attracting a lot of attention, Welke's swift action drew applause



In this July 4, 2014, file photo, Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper bats during a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs at Nationals Park in Washington.

Associated Press

from some fans sitting near the obscenity-shouting man.

Welke said he saw the fan come down to the back-

stop and start shouting in the sixth inning. Welke turned, identified the man and had an usher escort him away.

# Losers no more, Orioles celebrate AL East title

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — The Baltimore Orioles won their first AL East crown since 1997, using home runs by Steve Pearce and Jimmy Paredes to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-2 Tuesday night. With their ninth win in 10 games, the Orioles clinched their second playoff appearance in three years following a run of 14 consecutive losing seasons. It was Baltimore's ninth AL East title and only its second since 1983, when the Orioles last won the World Series.

The franchise has enjoyed a rebirth under the guidance of manager Buck Showalter, whose 1,254th victory thrust him past mentor Billy Martin into sole possession of 36th place on the career list.

Ubaldo Jimenez (5-9) survived a rocky start to limit the Blue Jays to two runs and two hits over five innings in his third start since July 5.

Pearce provided the Orioles with the lead for good with a three-run drive off Drew Hutchison (10-12) in the first inning. Pearce has 18 home runs this year, one more than he had in 290 games as a part-timer from 2007-13.

Paredes hit a solo shot in the second to make it 4-2. It was his second homer in 10 games with Baltimore.

**WHITE SOX 7, ROYALS 5 KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** — Kelvin Herrera and Wade Davis both gave up runs for the first time in nearly three months as Kansas City's dominant bullpen was touched up in a loss to the Chicago White Sox.

Davis replaced Herrera (3-3) with two on in the seventh inning and walked Jose Abreu to load the bases for Conor Gillaspie, who cleared them with a triple to right-center that gave Chicago a 7-5 lead. That ended Herrera's scoreless streak at 30 2-3 innings, dating to June 24. Also snapped was Davis' shutout streak of 31 2-3 innings, a club record for a reliever, with the first run charged to him since June 25.



**Baltimore Orioles' Jimmy Paredes, from bottom left, Adam Jones and Ryan Flaherty greet teammate Nick Markakis after Markakis, Paredes and Flaherty scored on Alejandro De Aza's triple in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, in Baltimore.**

Associated Press

The rare bullpen failure prevented Kansas City from gaining ground on AL Central leader Detroit, which lost at Minnesota. The Royals remained 1 1/2 games behind the Tigers, but still lead Seattle for the second wild-card spot.

Eric Surkamp (2-0) earned the victory, and Zach Putnam worked a perfect ninth for his fifth save.

The game lasted 4 hours, 16 minutes, the longest nine-inning game in Royals history.

**RAYS 6, YANKEES 1**

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)** — Derek Jeter was hit on the arm by a Steve Goltz pitch in the eighth inning of a loss to Tampa Bay, the fifth time a New York Yankees batter has been hit by a Rays pitcher in the past week.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi came out of the dugout and was ejected after New York's captain was hit. New York's David Phelps was ejected by plate umpire Rob Drake in the bottom half after throwing a tight pitch to Kevin Kiermaier. Both dugouts and bullpens emptied, but little occurred except for a couple

players being restrained by teammates or coaches.

Jeter, who is retiring at the end of the season, was honored in a pregame ceremony and went 0 for 2. He is hitless in 26 at-bats, the second-longest skid of his career, dropping his batting average to .249.

Jake Odorizzi (11-12) allowed one run and five hits over six innings.

Michael Pineda (3-5) gave up two runs and four hits in 5 1-3 innings for the Yankees.

**INDIANS 4, ASTROS 2**

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Corey Kluber struck out a career-high 14 in seven innings, and Cleveland halted its four-game losing streak by topping Houston.

Kluber (16-9) allowed one run and seven hits to earn his third straight win. His previous high for strikeouts was 13 against the Chicago White Sox on May 4.

Yan Gomes' two-run homer off Darin Downs in the sixth increased Cleveland's lead to 4-1.

Cody Allen got the last out in the eighth and pitched the ninth for his 21st save.

Houston's Jose Altuve

broke Craig Biggio's club record for hits in a season with his 211th, a single up the middle in the seventh. Nick Tropeano (1-1) gave up two runs — one earned — and four hits with four strikeouts in five innings.

**TWINS 4, TIGERS 3**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Aaron Hicks hit a two-out RBI single in the ninth inning, and Minnesota rallied for a win over AL Central-leading Detroit.

After J.D. Martinez hit a three-run home run to give Detroit a 3-2 lead in the top of the ninth, Trevor Plouffe drew a one-out walk against Joe Nathan (4-4) and was replaced by pinch-runner Doug Bernier. Bernier scored when center fielder Ezequiel Carrera dived for a line drive off the bat of Kurt Suzuki and missed it, allowing the ball to roll to the wall.

Chris Herrmann ran for Suzuki and scored when Hicks beat out a bouncer fielded by shortstop Andrew Romine near second base.

After Martinez's homer off Glen Perkins (4-3), it looked as if the Tigers had another big ninth-inning win. Torii

Hunter and Miguel Cabrera hit back-to-back homers in the ninth to rally the Tigers to a win in Monday's series opener.

**MARINERS 13, ANGELS 2**

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — Mike Zunino's two-run double keyed a four-run fifth inning, and Seattle climbed within a game of the second AL wild-card spot by routing the Los Angeles Angels.

One night after becoming the first team to secure a playoff berth, the Angels lost for only the fourth time in 21 games. Their magic number for clinching the AL West dropped to two because of Oakland's loss to Texas.

The Athletics lead the wild-card race by a game over Kansas City.

Carson Smith (1-0) earned his first major league victory with two innings of hitless relief in his fifth appearance. Mariners starter Roenis Elias allowed two runs and five hits in three-plus innings before leaving due to elbow stiffness.

Angels righty Cory Rasmus, making his fourth start since Garrett Richards went down with a season-ending knee injury on Aug. 20, retired 12 of the 13 batters he faced.

The Mariners tied a season high for runs.

Jason Grilli (1-3) took the loss.

**RANGERS 6, ATHLETICS 3**

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** — Scott Kazmir allowed a two-run homer to Jake Smolinski, and shortstop Jed Lowrie made an error that led to a pair of unearned runs as Oakland lost to last-place Texas.

After strengthening their AL wild-card lead by beating Seattle in the final two games of a weekend series, the A's looked sloppy in the opener of a nine-game homestand and failed in their attempt to win three straight for the first time since Aug. 7-9.

Oakland made two errors, threw two wild pitches and got another rough outing from Kazmir (14-9) to lose for the 15th time in 22 games. □

# Kerber reaches quarterfinals at Pan Pacific Open



Angelique Kerber of Germany returns a shot to Elina Svitolina of Ukraine during their second round match of the Japan Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014. Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — Ana Ivanovic stalled Victoria Azarenka's comeback from a foot injury with a 6-3, 6-4 win to make the Pan Pacific Open quarterfinals on Wednesday. In the match between the former major champions and No. 1s, Azarenka committed seven of her nine double faults in the first set and her serve was easily

read by Ivanovic. Ivanovic prevailed for her first win over Azarenka since 2010, after losing four straight. She lined up seventh-seeded Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic, who hit 10 aces in beating wild card Belinda Bencic of Switzerland 3-6, 6-4, 6-2. Top-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany beat Elina Svitolina of Ukraine 6-4, 6-4.

Kerber, who is seeking her fourth career WTA singles title, converted both break points in the second set at Ariake Coliseum.

On Friday, she will play sixth-seeded Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia, who ousted Coco Vandeweghe of the United States, 7-6 (5), 7-5, in a match of 15 broken serves.



Seattle Sounders FC midfielder Brad Evans holds the Championship trophy and celebrates with his team at the end of the U.S. Open Cup final against the Philadelphia Union on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, in Chester, Pa. Associated Press

## Seattle wins U.S. Open Cup, beating Philadelphia

**CHESTER, Pennsylvania (AP)** — Clint Dempsey and Obafemi Martins led the Seattle Sounders to their fourth U.S. Open Cup title Tuesday, scoring in extra time in a 3-1 victory over the Philadelphia Union.

Dempsey, the United States captain, scored with a left-footed blast off Martins' feed in the 11th minute of extra time before Martins scored four minutes later. Seattle also won three straight titles from 2009 to 2011. The Sounders earned one of the United States' four spots in the 2015-16 CONCACAF Champions League. Seattle's Chad Barrett tied it at 1-1 with a header in the 47th minute.

Maurice Edu opened the scoring for Philadelphia in the 38th minute, heading home a free kick from Cristian Maidana. The Union were playing in the first title game in the five-year history of the club.

# Tsonga takes confident start in Metz

**METZ, France (AP)** — Top-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga served 10 aces and saved all five break points to defeat Gilles Muller of Luxembourg 7-6 (7), 6-4 at the Moselle Open on Wednesday. Tsonga, who won the title in Metz in 2011 and 2012, was runner-up to fellow Frenchman Gilles Simon last year. He will face eighth-seeded David Goffin of Belgium or German Tobias Kamke in the quarterfinals of the indoor tournament. Tsonga can still qualify for the ATP finals in London from Nov. 9-16 with a strong finish to the season. The Frenchman won his second ATP World Tour Masters 1000 title last month in Toronto with a straight-sets

win over Roger Federer. Goffin beat French qualifier Florent Serra 6-2, 6-2 while Finnish veteran Jarkko Nieminen set up a meeting with former Wimbledon semifinalist Jerzy Janowicz after beating Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-1, 6-4.

Local favorite Paul-Henri Mathieu joined Tsonga in the quarterfinals as he defeated fourth-seeded Czech Lukas Rosol 6-3, 6-4. Joao Sousa saved all four break points to beat Ivan Dodig 6-2, 6-2 in the first round while Jeremy Chardy got the better of Nicolas Mahut 7-6 (5), 7-5 in an all-French match. The sixth-seeded Sousa will next play Igor Sijsling.



France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga serves against Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic during their single match in the semifinal of the Davis Cup at the Roland Garros stadium, in Paris, Friday, Sept. 12, 2014. Associated Press

# A Closer Look: Your (online) life after death

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sure, you have a lot to do today — laundry, bills, dinner — but it's never too early to start planning for your digital afterlife, the fate of your numerous online accounts once you shed this mortal coil. Facebook, Google, Twitter and other sites have different policies on dealing with dead users. Some states are also considering laws that would automatically give loved ones access to, though not control of, their dead relative's digital accounts, unless otherwise specified. Unless you take action, you might not like the outcome: Would you want to give your spouse automatic access to your email correspondences? Should parents automatically be able to browse through a deceased child's online dating profile?

Now that you're mulling your eventual demise, here's a look at how some of the biggest Internet companies deal with deceased users' accounts and what you can do to control your information.

— GOOGLE

The company behind Gmail and Google Plus has a tool that lets you decide what happens with your account after you die or become inactive online for another reason, such as moving

your data deleted after three, six or 12 months of inactivity. Or you can choose someone, such as a parent or a spouse, to receive the data. The tool covers not just email but also other Google

suggesting friends and won't send birthday reminders.

Privacy settings from when you were alive will carry over, and those can't be changed. So if friends were able to post

accounts: <http://on.fb.me/1cyCi5e>

—TWITTER

Twitter will deactivate your account if contacted by a family member or a person authorized to act on behalf of your estate. For this, the person will need a death certificate. Because many people don't use their real names on Twitter, the company will also want a "brief description of the details that evidence this account belongs to the deceased," its policy states.

After 30 days, a deactivated Twitter account is permanently deleted.

To respect the wishes of loved ones, Twitter says it may also remove images of deceased individuals that circulate on the site. The policy applies only in limited circumstances and was implemented recently, after some users sent altered images of Robin Williams to his daughter Zelda after the actor committed suicide in August.

The policy was also used to remove gruesome images of the beheading of journalist James Foley. The company's CEO Dick Costolo said last month, in reference to the Foley images, that Twitter "is actively suspending accounts as we discover them related to this graphic imagery."

Twitter contact page for family members of the dead: <http://bit.ly/1w7cGaY>



In this June 16, 2013 file photo, Internet users browse their Facebook website by the free wifi internet service in an underground station in Hong Kong. It's never too early to start planning for your digital afterlife, the fate of your numerous online accounts once you shed this mortal coil.

Associated Press

to a deserted island off the grid with no Internet access. The tool is called "inactive account manager."

You can choose to have

services such as Google Plus, YouTube and Blogger.

Before deleting data, Google will send a warning to a secondary email address or a phone number if you have provided one. This, of course, won't help if you're dead. But you can also have that warning go to a loved one.

Google's inactive account manager: <http://bit.ly/XuvqgD>

—FACEBOOK

The world's largest online social network doesn't give relatives access to dead people's accounts. Instead, loved ones can request for your account to be "memorialized" if you die. This means no one will be able to log in or modify any settings, such as adding or removing friends or deleting content. In addition, Facebook won't show the account in its "people you may know" section for

to your account's Timeline, they'll still be able to do so. The Timeline posts will be viewable by the same people who were able to see those posts before. Friends will also be able to send private messages, as long as they were able to before, even though no one will see them.

Facebook's page on deleting or memorializing

## Taxi group seeks to stop Uber, Lyft in New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— A group of taxi and limousine operators has filed a lawsuit seeking to stop ride-sharing services from operating in New Mexico.

The Public Regulation Commission which regulates taxis and limos previously ruled that Lyft and Uber were in violation of state law. However, the two companies have continued to operate.

Unlike traditional taxi businesses, Lyft and Uber use smart-phone programs to connect people seek-

ing rides with people who have cars.

The president of Yellow Checker Cabs in Albuquerque says the ride-sharing services don't have proper insurance and are putting their own drivers at risk along with New Mexico residents.

The Albuquerque Journal reports that a PRC hearing officer is considering whether the services violate the state Motor Carrier Act and could draft new rules that might include the services. □

## Apple iOS 8 software bug affects health apps

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A bug in Apple's new iOS 8 software for mobile devices is prompting the company to withhold apps that use a highly touted feature for keeping track of fitness and health data.

Apple says it hopes to have HealthKit apps restored to its app store by the end of the month. Affected apps include Carrot Fit, WebMD and AskMD. Apple didn't provide details on what

went wrong.

The iOS 8 software became available Wednesday. HealthKit is supposed to create a central repository for health and fitness data, so that apps have a better picture of your overall wellness and can even recommend trips to the doctor.

Apple's new iPhones have sensors to monitor fitness activities, and its upcoming Apple Watch will have a heart-rate monitor. □

## Wal-Mart executive forced out for lying about degree



**David Tovar, the vice president of corporate communications at Wal-Mart, in New York. In 2014, Tovar was forced to resign after the retailer discovered that he had lied about receiving an art degree from the University of Delaware.**

(Earl Wilson/The New York Times)

**RACHEL ABRAMS**

© 2014 New York Times

David Tovar, the vice president for corporate communications at Wal-Mart, was forced to resign after the retailer discovered that he had lied about receiving an art degree from the University of Delaware.

A spokeswoman for the school, Andrea Boyle, confirmed in an email that Tovar had attended the university for four years but did not graduate.

"It's my mistake. I own it," Tovar, who had been with the company for eight years, said in an interview. "I definitely didn't disclose that I didn't have a degree, and there were times where it was probably an error of omission."

Tovar said he had thought he had the necessary credits to graduate from the University of Delaware with an art degree in 1996 but discovered months after participating in the graduation ceremony that he was "a couple of credit hours short." Years later, when people asked about his educational background, he would say that he had attended the university, but would not disclose that he had not graduated.

He said in the interview that he did not remember what his résumé stated.

Dan Bartlett, Wal-Mart's

executive vice president for corporate affairs, confirmed Tovar's departure in an internal announcement on Friday. "During his time in the company, Dave has made many contributions to build our brand and to help make Wal-Mart a better business," he wrote.

Tovar handled much of the company's publicity after accusations that it violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which forbids U.S. companies from greasing international trade wheels by bribing foreign officials. The New York Times reported in 2012 that Wal-Mart, the United States' largest retailer, had routinely bribed Mexican officials to accelerate its expansion in that country.

Tovar was known to push back at media coverage that he considered critical of his employer. In June, he mocked an article by the Times columnist Timothy Egan on Wal-Mart's blog by posting a copy of it marked up in red outlining what he viewed as errors.

On Tuesday, Tovar said that Wal-Mart had planned to promote him to a senior vice president position and discovered his education history during a routine background check that was more rigorous than the one conducted when he was hired.

"I suppose the irony here is that I was about to be promoted and now a couple weeks later I'm going to be leaving the company," he said.

Tovar is not the first high-level executive to be accused of misrepresenting his education history. In 2012, Yahoo's chief executive, Scott Thompson, resigned under pressure after it was revealed that he had lied about receiving a computer science degree. Tovar said that he had contacted the University of Delaware to determine which credits he was missing.

"I'm in the process of trying to figure out what I need to finish up the last class in order to get my degree," he said. "And then I plan to resume my career." □

## Dow Jones closes at record high

**BERNARD CONDON**

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The stock market rose Wednesday after the Federal Reserve told investors to expect low interest rates for a while yet, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average to a record high.

After drifting along for most of the day, stocks marched higher after the U.S. central bank released a statement signaling little change in its interest rate policy. The gains were broad, with seven of the 10 industry groups of the Standard & Poor's 500 index rising, led by materials stocks.

The Fed statement put to rest an anxious waiting game among investors that has left the S&P 500 moving between small gains and losses for weeks. A rise in the short-term rates that the Fed controls has triggered stock drops in the past.

"The Fed is not going to take the punch bowl away," said Brad McMillan,

to mean the first hike won't come until the middle of next year.

The Dow rose 24.88 points, or 0.2 percent, to end at 17,156.85 — its 16th record high this year. The S&P 500 edged up 2.59 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,001.57, falling short of its own closing high of 2,007.71 from Sept. 5.

The Nasdaq composite was up 9.43 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,562.19, still well below its dot-com era peak.

Shares of home builders jumped after builder confidence in the market for new homes rose to its highest level in nearly nine years. Miami-based Lennar Corp. rose nearly 6 percent, the most in the S&P 500 index.

The S&P 500 has risen 8 percent since January, extending the bull market into a sixth year. Companies have been hiring at a solid pace and manufacturing and construction have picked up.

But the good developments have also worried the market because they could prompt the Fed to raise interest rates to head off inflation.

On Wednesday, at least, those concerns eased. Even before the Fed policy statement, there was news that inflation is tame. The government reported that U.S. consumer prices edged down in August, the first monthly drop since the spring of 2013.

Oil fell after the Energy Department reported an unexpected increase in U.S. crude oil supplies. Benchmark U.S. oil fell 46 cents to \$94.42 a barrel. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils imported by many U.S. refineries, dropped 8 cents to \$98.87 a barrel in London. Inventories of U.S. crude oil rose by 3.7 million barrels last week. Most analysts had expected a decline, which is typical for this time of year. In other energy futures, wholesale gasoline



**Trader George Ettinger works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014. The stock market rose Wednesday after the Federal Reserve told investors to expect low interest rates for a while yet, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average to a record high.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

chief investment officer for Commonwealth Financial. "They didn't want to spook the market."

In its statement, the central bank retained language in that it plans to keep short-term rates low "for a considerable time" after it ends its monthly bond purchases in November. Many investors interpreted that

John Lynch, regional chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank, said the stronger economy is a big reason that stocks have risen.

"The economy is tracking at a 3 percent rate of growth, and corporate profits are at a record level," he said, shortly before the Dow's record close.

rose 1 cent to \$2.569 a gallon. Heating oil fell 1.1 cents to \$2.745 a gallon. Natural gas gained 1.8 cents to \$4.013 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Among stocks making big moves:

— DuPont surged \$3.42 to \$69.25, or 5.2 percent, the biggest gain in the Dow by far. □

# Sony forecasts \$2B loss as smartphone division lags

**E. KURTENBACH**  
**AP Business Writer**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Sony expects its annual loss to swell to \$2 billion and has canceled dividends for the first time in more than half a century after writing down the value of its troubled smartphone business. Citing intense competition, especially from Chinese rivals, Sony said Wednesday it anticipates a net loss of 230 billion yen (\$2.15 billion) for the fiscal year that ends March 31, 2015. Its previous forecast was for a 50 billion yen (\$466 million) net loss.

For the first time since going public in 1958, the Japanese electronics and entertainment conglomerate canceled dividend payments for the half- and full-year.

"This is the very first time we ever eliminated a dividend," said Sony's president Kazuo Hirai. "For more than 50 years we always paid a dividend. The entire management takes this very seriously."

The company plans to cut staff in its mobile communications business by about 15 percent, or roughly 1,000 people, Hirai said. Details of that plan are to be announced later.

Sony has been trying to reshape its business after years of red ink and has repeatedly promised turnarounds without delivering.

It said the bigger loss for the current fiscal year stems from a lower valuation of its mobile phone business due to weaker than expected sales. The company is recording an "impairment charge" of 180 billion yen (\$1.7 billion) in the July-September quarter.

The charge is purely an adjustment to the company's balance sheet, involving no cash, but it reflects that the mobile business is far less valuable and will generate lower profits than previously thought.

The smartphone business has proven particularly tough for Sony. Apple and Samsung dominate at the top end while Chinese and other Asian manu-

facturers are hogging the market for cheaper phones that are most likely to appeal in fast-growing developing countries.

has caused a shift in the pricing," he said. "Meanwhile, Apple and other manufacturers are launching strong, innovative

for future growth in smartphones and mobile technology.

"We have to be in the competitive landscape

sets well we can come up with uniquely Sony products," he said.

Looking ahead, Sony plans to concentrate on its "premium lineup" of smartphones and reduce the number of mid-range models that have proven less popular than expected, Hirai said.

Sony plans three Xperia Z3 smartphone and tablet models, with its signature waterproof capabilities, for this fall. For the first time, one of the phones will be available in the U.S., through T-Mobile, at about the same time as the rest of the world, rather than months later.

It also plans a new Smart-Band fitness device that will include a small display to show the status of various activities. Its Smart-Watch 3 will have GPS capabilities built in, allowing for more accurate tracking of outdoor fitness activities.

The profit warning followed a surprise eightfold jump in Sony's April-June quarterly profit thanks to gains from selling buildings and its stake in a video-game maker.

Sony left its full-year sales forecast unchanged at 7.8 trillion yen (\$72.8 billion).

The company reported a 128.4 billion yen loss in the fiscal year that ended March 31. □



**Employees leave the headquarters of Sony Corp. in Tokyo Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014. Sony expects its annual loss to swell to \$2 billion and has canceled dividends for the first time in more than half a century after writing down the value of its troubled smartphone business. Citing intense competition, especially from Chinese rivals, Sony said Wednesday it anticipates a net loss of 230 billion yen (\$2.15 billion) for the fiscal year that ends March 31, 2015.**

(AP Photo/Toru Takahashi)

Hirai said Sony had not managed to stay ahead of sea changes in the industry.

"The Chinese smartphone manufacturers have made great strides and are expanding outside their own market, and this

products. The changes are very rapid and dramatic."

Hirai said Sony expects a loss in its mobile business this year, but would return to profit by cutting costs and focusing on higher end devices. It is also positioning itself

in the next stage and be ready for that evolution," he said.

Sony intends to leverage its vast archive of music and movies, network services and technology to compete.

"By combining these as-

## Family Dollar rejects Dollar General's \$9.1B offer

**MICHAEL J. de la MERCED**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

Family Dollar Stores again rejected on Wednesday a \$9.1 billion takeover approach from Dollar General and urged shareholders not to tender their shares to the discount retailer's bigger rival.

The step, largely formal, prolongs a heated battle over the fate of one of the country's most prominent dollar stores. Dollar General is looking to derail an agreement that Family Dollar struck to sell itself to a small competitor, Dollar Tree, for \$8.5 billion.

In a news release, Family Dollar noted that Dollar General's offer to buy shares directly from shareholders is

a largely symbolic gesture, because it won't actually purchase the shares unless the two companies reach an agreement.

But Family Dollar reiterated that the offer remains problematic. Combining the two companies, it has consistently argued, would run afoul of antitrust regulators who would be displeased that two of the country's biggest dollar stores would be combining.

Though Dollar General has raised its offer price and added both a \$500 million break-up fee in case a merger is blocked on antitrust grounds and a pledge to divest up to 1,500 stores if necessary, its target insists that such measures are not

enough.

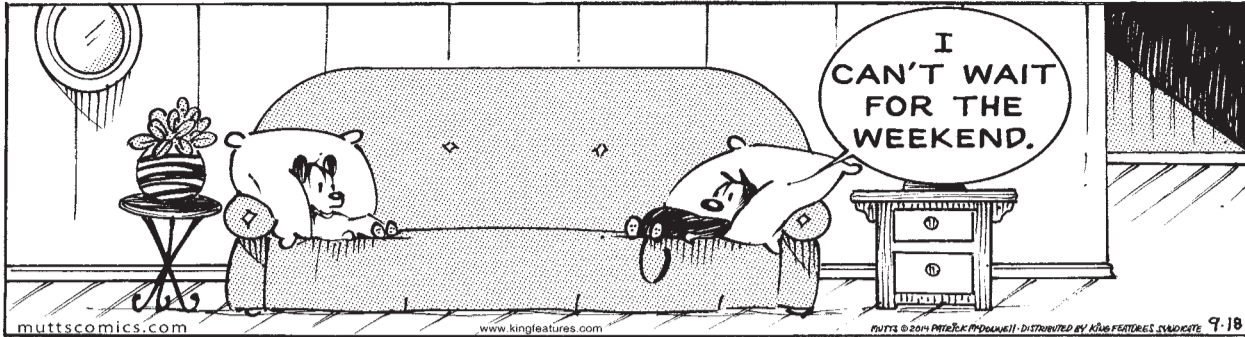
"Our board of directors, with the assistance of outside advisers and consultants, reviewed all aspects of Dollar General's tender offer and concluded unanimously that this highly conditional offer is illusory because, as Dollar General is well aware, the offer cannot close on the terms proposed," Howard R. Levine, Family Dollar's chief executive, said in a statement. "Tenders into the Dollar General offer will be meaningless since there is no way that Dollar General can purchase shares that are tendered."

The rejection has the backing of a major Family Dollar shareholder, the activist

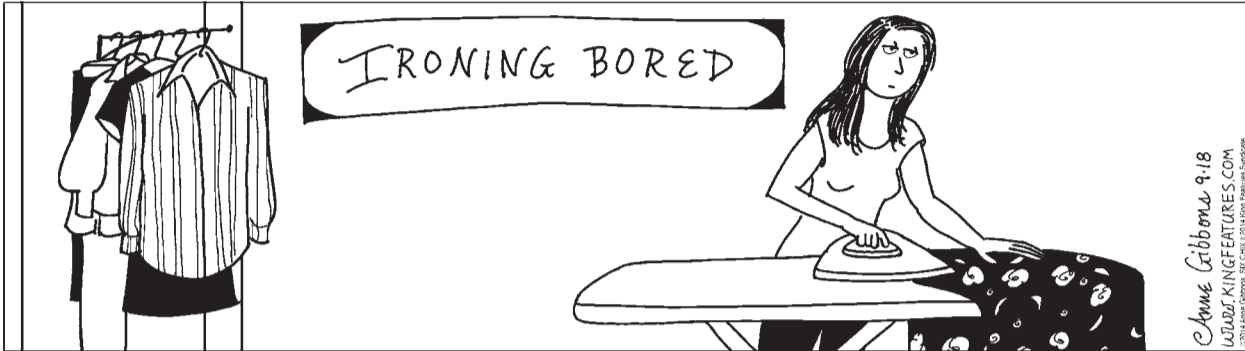
hedge fund Trian Partners. Such support could prove important, because such an investor would normally be expected to back a higher-priced takeover offer.

"We are focused on delivering to Family Dollar shareholders the highest value with certainty, and the Dollar Tree transaction does just that," Edward P. Garden, Trian's chief investment officer and a Family Dollar board member, said in a statement. "As we have highlighted previously, Dollar General has repeatedly stated that antitrust is not a risk, yet they have put forth proposals that require Family Dollar shareholders to bear the ultimate risk." □

Mutts



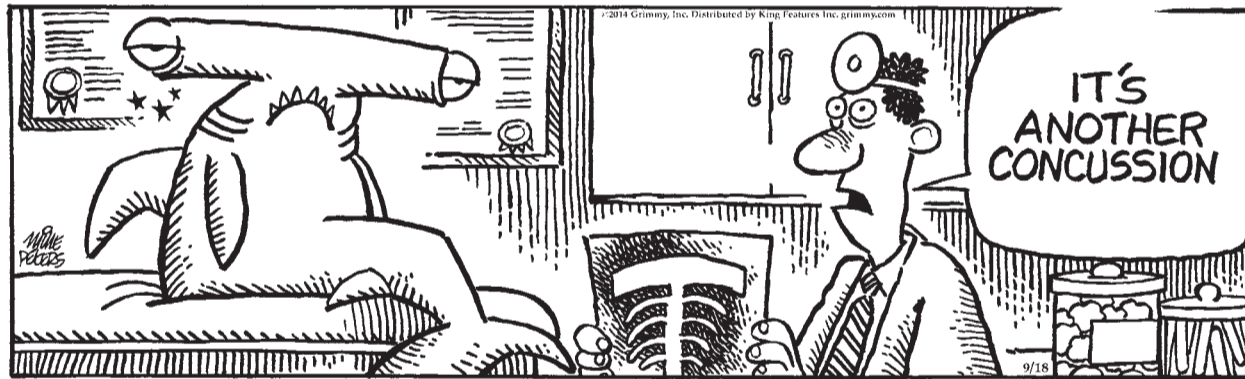
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			7		8			
	4	1				9	5	
	3	9				2	8	
2				6				1
4				8				3
	2	7				6	3	
	9	6				5	4	
			6		5			

Difficulty Level ★★★

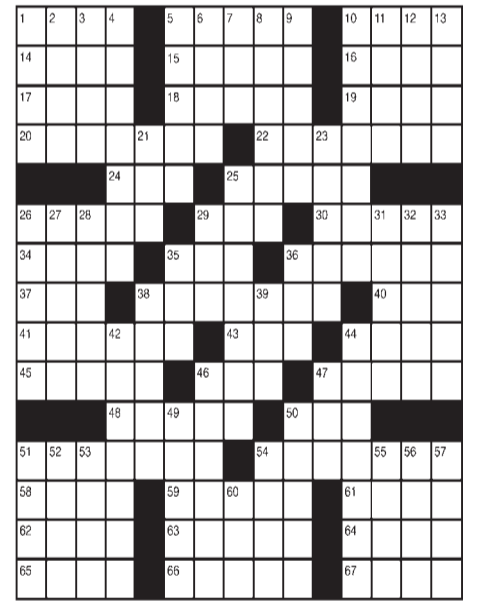
9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	1	8	2	5	9	7	3	4
4	3	7	1	8	6	9	5	2
2	5	9	4	3	7	1	6	8
8	2	4	5	6	1	3	9	7
1	6	3	9	7	4	8	2	5
9	7	5	3	2	8	6	4	1
5	9	2	7	1	3	4	8	6
3	8	1	6	4	2	5	7	9
7	4	6	8	9	5	2	1	3

ACROSS

- 1 \_\_\_ away; escapes  
5 Pesky insects  
10 \_\_\_ up; misbehaves  
14 Unit of land  
15 Adjust an alarm  
16 Small store  
17 Injection  
18 In the know  
19 Location; place  
20 Spiciest  
22 Lost weight  
24 Distance across the pool  
25 Back tooth  
26 More peculiar  
29 In favor of  
30 Banquet  
34 Connects  
35 Debtor's note  
36 Upper part of a dress  
37 Sombrero, e.g.  
38 Late  
40 Boy  
41 Pep  
43 Bolt partner  
44 \_\_\_ up; delayed  
45 More unusual  
46 Blushing  
47 Pal  
48 Relinquished  
50 El \_\_\_; Spanish hero  
51 Skilled craftsman  
54 Street vendor  
58 Orderly  
59 \_\_\_ a wet hen  
61 Hawaiian tourist's meal  
62 Back of the neck  
63 Last Greek letter  
64 Goofs  
65 Snow vehicle  
66 More modern  
67 Fender blemish



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/18/14

5 Clutch

- 6 Mr. Gingrich  
7 As busy \_\_\_ bee  
8 Extreme fear  
9 Common metal  
10 Comforted; relieved doubt  
11 Stylish  
12 Carry  
13 Earned a ticket  
21 Corncob  
23 Actor Willem  
25 Grieved  
26 \_\_\_ than; besides  
27 Prince William's mum  
28 Talk out of  
29 Enemy  
31 Had a bug  
32 Burn with liquid  
33 Woman's sheer undergarment  
35 Crawling plant  
36 Except for  
38 Villains  
39 Failure; lemon  
42 Spoke a poem before an audience, e.g.

DOWN

- 1 Deep wide cut  
2 Reverberate  
3 Horse's gait  
4 \_\_\_ down; stops moving around

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

B	I	D	E	N	T	W	A	S	O	D	D	S
E	R	A	S	E	O	A	T	H	B	A	I	T
A	O	R	T	A	T	R	E	E	S	U	R	E
U	N	E	A	R	N	E	D	A	V	E	N	G
T	E	E	M	C	R	E	S	T	E	D		
A	F	R	E	S	H	O	A	S	I	S		
C	O	O	T	R	A	C	T	L	E	A	F	Y
T	R	A	P	U	S	H	E	R	D	I	R	E
S	T	R	U	M	S	E	R	U	M	M	E	N
L	O	W	E	R	R	I	N	S	E	S		
M	E	A	S	L	E	S	S	A	N	C	E	
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C	O	A	T	P	L	E	A	S	T	R	A	P
A	D	Z	E	O	I	N	K	E	A	G	L	E
W	E	E	D	N	E	T	S	T	R	E	E	D

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9/18/14

- 44 Crowded together  
46 Give a new title to  
47 Auction offer  
49 Actor Matt \_\_\_  
50 Romero or Chavez  
51 Jillian & Curry  
52 Authentic  
53 Sticky strip  
54 Singer Patti \_\_\_  
55 Attract; draw merit  
57 Orangey color  
60 Morning grass blade moisture

## Los Cabos in a mess 3 days after Odile's stormy wrath

**ALBA MORA ROCA**  
**VICTOR CAIVANO**  
Associated Press

**SAN JOSE DEL CABO, Mexico (AP)** — Desperate locals and tourists were in survival mode in the resort area of Los Cabos on Wednesday, with electrical and water service still out three days after Hurricane Odile made landfall as a monster Category 3 storm.

Looters stripped supermarkets of their food and other products, with some people fighting over goods. At least one supermarket decided to give away its merchandise. People pushed shopping carts full of goods that at times clogged the highway.

Mexico's government continued to fly stranded tourists out of the area as the remnants of Odile drenched the northern state of Sonora and headed on a path forecast to take the rain into Arizona overnight.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said parts of Arizona and New Mexico could get 6 to 9 inches (15 to 23 centimeters) of rain and warned of possible flash flooding. The Tucson area was forecast to bear the brunt of the storm, but Phoenix could be lashed with rain and heavy winds, too. To the south, a new tropical storm was nearing hurricane strength off Mexico's Pacific coast and headed in the general direction of Los Cabos, although early predictions were for the center to remain offshore.

President Enrique Pena Nieto's office said the federal government was working closely with state authorities on relief efforts in the areas battered by Odile, including restoring water and electricity.

It said more than 239,000 people had their power knocked out by the storm, but predicted 95 percent of electrical service would be restored within four days.

A bridge on the highway between San Jose del Cabo and La Paz collapsed.

In Los Cabos, people helped themselves to food, water, soda and toilet paper at supermarkets and convenience stores. Some loaded pickup trucks with appliances, mattresses or patio furniture.

One market decided to give away its wares. Hundreds of people lined up to get inside for five minutes at a time and take what they could as store employees with machetes, baseball bats and air rifles tried to keep things orderly.

Natascha Ramsey, a homemaker from San Diego, sat outside the store. She came on vacation and was concerned about her child, who woke up Wednesday with a rash. She was running out of supplies.

"I just need to worry about getting food for her," Ramsey told The Associated Press. "We'll be fine, but I need formula, diapers, wipes, stuff to keep the child healthy."

When AP reporters returned later, the store had been emptied. Long lines formed at tortilla shops and at stores selling ice as people tried to feed themselves and keep what food they had from going bad in the sweltering heat. Lines also snaked from the couple of gas stations still working. Customers were each limited to 250 pesos' (\$19) worth of fuel, about 19 liters (5 gallons).

At the Best Western near Los Cabos airport, guests filled buckets with pool water to flush their toilets.

Some tourists drove their rental cars or hired cabs to head north to La Paz, the Baja California Sur state capital that was hit with less intensity. They hoped they might have a better chance of getting out through the city's airport, but they found frustrated crowds, long waits and little information from authorities.

David Bergman of California said he and his family had been at the La Paz airport for two days.

"It's nothing but lies. We've just been lied to," Bergman said angrily. "There's almost been rioting here two times. ... we were caged like animals." □

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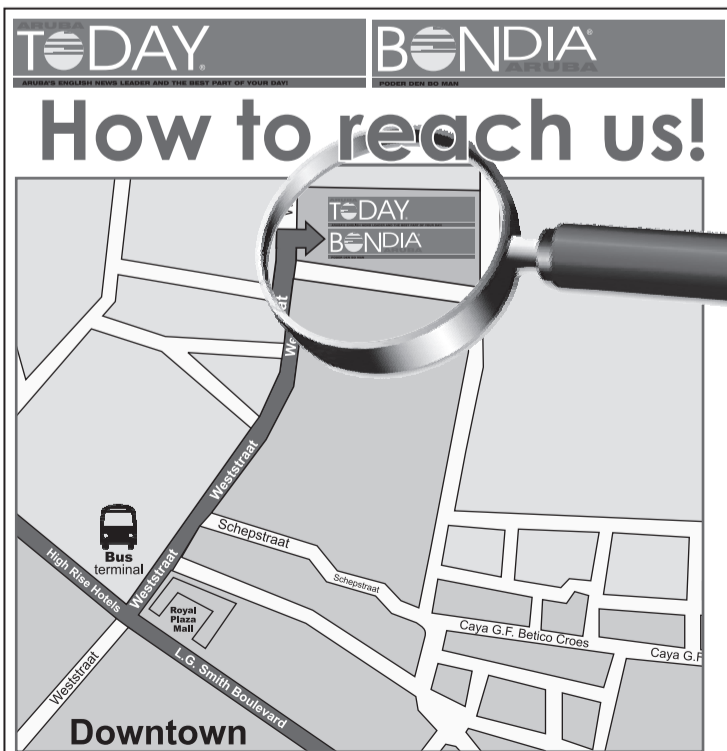
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# NASA's Maven spacecraft reaches Mars this weekend

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — Mars, get ready for another visitor or two. This weekend, NASA's Maven spacecraft will reach the red planet following a 10-month journey spanning 442 million miles (711 million kilometers).

If all goes well, the robotic explorer will hit the brakes and slip into Martian orbit Sunday night.

"I'm all on pins and needles. This is a critical event," NASA's director of planetary science, Jim Green, said Wednesday.

Maven is not designed to land; rather, it will study Mars' upper atmosphere from orbit.

Hot on Maven's heels is India's first interplanetary spacecraft, Mangalyaan, which is due to go into orbit around Mars two days after Maven.

Scientists want to learn how Mars went from a warm, wet world that may have harbored microbial life during its first billion years, to the cold, barren place of today. Maven should help explain the atmospheric changes that led to this radical climate change.

"Where did the water go? Where did the CO<sub>2</sub> go from that early environ-



In this Nov. 18, 2013 file photo, NASA's Maven, short for Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution, with a capital "N" in EvolutionN, atop a United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket, lifts off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

ment?" said chief investigator Bruce Jakosky of the University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics in Boulder. These escaping gases likely went down into the Martian crust and up into the upper atmosphere and

out into space. Jakosky and his team hope to ascertain whether the climatic about-face resulted from the sun's stripping away of the early atmospheric water and carbon dioxide.

"We measure these things today even though the

processes we're interested in operated billions of years ago," he said.

NASA launched Maven from Cape Canaveral last November on the \$671 million mission, the first dedicated to studying the Martian upper atmosphere. As of Wednesday, the spacecraft was less than 750,000 miles (1.2 million kilometers) from its destination; Maven's view of the red planet would be roughly equivalent to a baseball about 52 feet (15.8 million meters) away.

"So Mars is really growing right now as we approach, just four days away," said David Mitchell, NASA project manager.

The boxy, solar-winged craft is as long as a school bus and as hefty as a 5,400-pound (2,450-kilogram) SUV.

NASA expects a scientific bonus from Maven thanks to Comet Siding Spring.

The nucleus of the comet, discovered just last year, will pass within 82,000 miles (132,000 kilometers) of Mars on Oct. 19. NASA initially feared the trailing comet dust might jeopardize Maven, but the risk now ap-

pears to be minimal, Jakosky said. The spacecraft will observe Siding Spring, providing it can do so safely, and analyze the Martian atmosphere before and after the comet passes by.

"I'm told the odds of having an approach that close to Mars are about 1 in 1 million years, so it's really lucky that we get the opportunity here," Jakosky said.

Maven — short for Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution — is a scout for the human explorers whom NASA hopes to send in the decades ahead. It's NASA's 21st mission to Mars since the 1960s.

There are three spacecraft now circling Mars — one European and two U.S. — and two NASA rovers exploring the surface.

"For humans to go to Mars, it's not like 'Star Trek.' It's not like 'go where no man has gone before,'" Green told reporters. "It's really the planetary scientists that are blazing the trail for us to understand everything about Mars that we need to for humans to be able to land safely on Mars and explore and journey around the planet."

## Amazon founder's firm to build new rocket engines

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos plans to build a rocket engine that would eventually replace the Russian main-

stay used in many American unmanned launches. United Launch Alliance, a collaboration of two aerospace giants that launches unmanned rockets, announced Wednesday that

it will pay Bezos' Blue Origin space firm to develop new rocket engines. In about four years, the launch alliance hopes to start using the new engines in Delta and Atlas rockets.

Some experts worry that tensions over Ukraine might interrupt the supply of Russian engines, but alliance chief Tory Bruno said that's not a problem.

Bezos said he will proceed with plans for his private human space capsule to launch later this decade. However, Bezos' firm wasn't picked Tuesday by NASA for its \$6.8 billion private space taxi program.



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In this March 10, 2014 file photo, Judd Apatow, 2014 PaleyFest Icon Award recipient, arrives at 2014 PaleyFest Icon Award celebration at The Paley Center for Media, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

## Netflix gets 'Love' comedy from Judd Apatow

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Netflix says filmmaker Judd Apatow co-created a new series that will take a frank, comic look at modern relationships.

Netflix said Tuesday it has made a two-season commitment to the series, titled "Love." It will star Paul Rust and Gillian Jacobs as a couple learning about the ups and downs of intimacy and commitment.

Rust joined with Apatow and writer-producer Lesley Arfin to create the series. Apatow's film credits include "Superbad," and he is an executive producer of HBO's "Girls." Jacobs plays the character Britta on "Community."

Netflix said the comedy "Love" will debut online with 10 episodes in 2016, followed by a dozen episodes in 2017.

## Ben McKenzie primed to lead Fox's Batman prequel

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Ben McKenzie expects viewers to tune into the premiere episode of Fox's Batman prequel series, "Gotham," on Monday.

The series has the name recognition, history and premise to pique curiosity, and "if that gets people to watch, I'll take it," the 36-year-old actor said in a recent interview.

The challenge is to get viewers to tune in week after week, because there will be no caped crusader fighting injustice. Instead, "Gotham" (8 p.m. EDT) focuses on McKenzie's young police Detective James Gordon as he tries to keep his moral compass in a corrupt city.

McKenzie said there's a story worth telling.

"You don't know ... what happened before Bruce (Wayne) became Batman. You don't know how all of these villains became who they became. You don't know how all the people who were going to be-



Jada Pinkett Smith and Ben McKenzie arrive at "Gotham" series premiere event at the New York Library on Monday, Sept. 15, 2014 in New York.

Associated Press

come villains who just got killed, who didn't make it. You don't know how Jim navigated the terrain to get to where he ends up as commissioner," he said. "I think that's fascinating." McKenzie's breakout came in 2003 on Fox's "The O.C." He played Ryan Atwood, a teen from the wrong side of the tracks with good inten-

tions and a penchant for white tank tops who is invited to live with a wealthy family in Orange County, California.

He then played a police officer for five seasons on TNT's gritty ensemble series "Southland." His character was a wide-eyed rookie who became more cynical and jaded.

## Directors Guild finds TV diversity hiring stalled

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Women and minorities are largely shut out of the ranks of TV series directors in a stubbornly unchanged pattern of hiring, according to a Hollywood guild study released Wednesday.

The Directors Guild of America report said that employers have made no significant improvement in diversity among TV directors in the last four years.

According to the study, white males directed the vast majority of the more than 3,500 cable, broadcast and high-budget online episodes made for the 2013-14 season.

In a statement, Directors Guild President Paris Barclay said it can be "shockingly difficult" to persuade those who control industry hiring to make even small



In this Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014 file photo, Paris Barclay attends the LA Premiere Screening of "Sons Of Anarchy" at at TCL Chinese Theatre, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

improvements.

"This should matter to all of us, as a culture, as an industry and as directors," Barclay said, calling on studios, networks, production companies and individual

producers to stop making excuses and provide "true equal opportunity."

A lengthy "worst of" list with shows that hired no or few minorities or women includes HBO's "Boardwalk

Empire," NBC's "Hannibal" and CBS' "The Big Bang Theory." Shows that made the "best" list include BET's "The Game," CBS' "Mike & Molly" and Lifetime's "Drop Dead Diva."

The major broadcast networks, including ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox, did not immediately respond to requests for comment, nor did HBO.

Last season, 69 percent of all TV episodes were directed by white males, with 17 percent directed by minority males and 12 percent directed by white females, the study found.

Female directors made no gains in hiring last season compared to the year before.

A 3 percent increase in the episodes directed by minority males can be attributed to work done by Tyler Perry on three series that he also produces, the guild said.

Minority females were the least-represented among TV directors, representing only 2 percent of TV series directors.



Jewel poses for a portrait before a performance to raise awareness for the ReThink public housing initiative at The Mint on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## Jewel releases free song to support public housing

**SANDY COHEN**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Jewel is planning an album for release next fall. But for now, she's giving away her latest song for free.

The once-homeless singer-songwriter wrote "Home to Me" to support the ReThink public housing initiative. Inspired by an online contest that drew hundreds of submissions, Jewel unveiled the track online Tuesday, where it's available as a free download. She also performed it live at The Mint nightclub for an intimate audience of public housing administrators and residents.

"I love that it's a public awareness campaign," she said in an interview before taking the stage. "We're not asking people for money. We're asking them to rethink."

The majority of public-housing residents are children, veterans and the elderly, she said. More than 2 million low-income families and individuals are served by public housing, but ReThink says the need is much greater.

Jewel could have used

public housing help when she became homeless at 18. She said her boss at the time withheld her check when she refused to sleep with him. She couldn't pay her rent and lived in her car until it was stolen.

"It was just a very vicious poverty cycle," she said.

She turned to writing and music to lift her spirits. She was performing at a coffee shop when she was discovered. The first song she ever wrote became her first single: "Who Will Save Your Soul?"

"I always crowd-source song inspiration," she said. "It's really about what I see around me."

She's never done it quite as formally as she did with this latest track. ReThink held a contest inviting the public to share poems and essays about what home means to them, and Jewel chose the title of her new song from one of the submitted compositions.

"It's surreal," said Silvia Kearney of Ohio, who wrote the essay called "Home to Me" and sat with her son and daughter in the audience for Jewel's performance. "It's unbelievable

to inspire someone like her, so famous and so talented."

The 40-year-old entertainer has been busy since announcing her impending divorce from husband Ty Murray in July. She's at work on a "memoir/self-help book," which she hopes to release alongside more new music. She's already written 30 songs for a new album, which she describes as "a bookend to (1995's) 'Pieces of You,' a pretty raw folk album."

She plans to release it independently so she can set a schedule that allows her to focus on Kase, her 3-year-old son with Murray.

She said the heartache over her split with Murray, whom she married in 2008, shows up in some of the new songs, but she's grateful the two have remained friends.

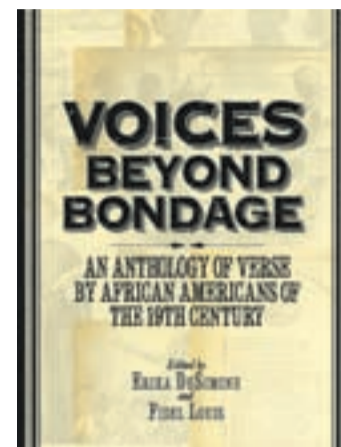
"My writing has always reflected my life," she said. "It's such a heartbreak, but at the same time I feel really lucky that I have a friend going through this with me. We're focusing on our strengths: Being really great parents and good friends." □

## Review: 'Voices' draws attention to black poets

**JESSE J. HOLLAND**

**Associated Press**

"Voices Beyond Bondage: An Anthology of Verse by African Americans of the 19th Century" (NewSouth



**This book cover image released by NewSouth Books shows, "Voices Beyond Bondage: An Anthology of Verse by African Americans of the 19th Century," by Erika DeSimone and Fidel Louis.**  
Associated Press

Books), edited by Erika DeSimone and Fidel Louis George Moses Horton wasn't supposed to be able to read. As a black slave in rural North Carolina in the pre-Civil War South, he definitely wasn't supposed to be able to compose sonnets and ballads. But on July 18, 1828, his poem "Slavery" appeared in the newspaper Freedom's Journal.

Two researchers are bringing attention to poets like Horton though their book, "Voices Beyond Bondage: An Anthology of Verse by African Americans of the 19th Century." Editors Erika DeSimone and Fidel Louis combed through thousands of black newspapers and pamphlets like The North Star, Freedom's Journal, Frederick Douglass' Paper, Western Cyclone and The Christian Recorder to find 150 poems written by black slaves and black freedmen and freedwomen to help flesh out what they call a gap in the history of the black literary movement.

Focusing only on poems published in that era's black newspapers — the main literary outlet for black authors and poets of the time — "Voices" covers the gamut of African-

American poetry from 1827 to 1899: odes to freedom and condemnation of slavery, celebrations of life and love, calls to religion and politics, and tributes to the gloriousness of everyday life. The most powerful are the poems about the cruelty and desperation of life in bondage, many written by anonymous slaves or slaves like Horton or Mingo, who pinned his on the walls of his slave prison before dying in an escape attempt. It was reprinted in The Weekly Anglo-African on Aug. 10, 1861.

A work of more than a decade, the project came about as Louis was working on his thesis about the black press and noticed that many if not all of the black newspapers of that time included poetry in each issue. Louis began to collect these poems and was joined by DeSimone in 2002 in vetting the thousands of works to ensure they were actually written by African-American poets and choosing which ones to include in this collection. The collection aims to fill in gaps in the commonly accepted history of black poetry.

Works by more famous poets like Jupiter Hammon and Phyllis Wheatley — the first published African-American poets — are purposely missing, the editors said. Hammon, a Long Island, New York, slave, is remembered as the first published African-American poet, with his poem "An Evening Thought: Salvation by Christ With Penitential Cries," published in 1761 in the colonies. Wheatley's "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral" was published in England in 1773 before her emancipation.

But to many, the black literary movement starts with Hammon and Wheatley, then skips all the way to Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson and the Harlem Renaissance with little to no thought about the poets in the interim, the editors said. □

## Ray Rice and His Rage



**CHARLES M. BLOW**  
© 2014 New York Times

The sordid Ray Rice scandal has opened a much-needed dialogue about domestic violence. In February, Rice and Janay Palmer, then his fiancée and now his wife, had an altercation at an Atlantic City casino that left Palmer unconscious. A tape surfaced of Rice dragging Palmer's limp body from the elevator, hovering over her. At no point does he appear to attend to her, appear shocked at what he has done to her or appear to have much concern for her at all. He doesn't even pull down her skirt.

The next month a grand jury indicted Rice on a charge of third-degree aggravated assault.

The Baltimore Ravens' coach, John Harbaugh, stood by Rice, saying, "He will be part of our team," and continuing:

"He's a person of character. The thing that's really important is to be able to support the person without condoning the action. He makes a mistake. There's no justifying what happened. When you drink too much in public, those kind of things happen."

Whatever one may think of Rice's character, "those kind of things" don't just "happen." That is too casual a dismissal of a very serious issue.

In May, Rice was accepted into a pretrial diversion program that allowed him to avoid prosecution.

A couple of days later Rice held a news conference with his wife by his side. He apologized to his coaches, his fans and "everyone who was affected by this situation that me and my wife were in." He did not, however, use that opportunity to publicly apologize to his wife, although he thanked her for loving him "where I was weak and building up where I was strong." He said that he and his wife had been in therapy and that the therapy had been helpful.

He even attempted to defend himself using the most unfortunate of metaphors: "One thing I can say is that sometimes in life, you will fail. But I won't call myself a failure. Failure is not getting knocked down; it's not getting back up."

His wife said at the news conference: "I do deeply regret the role I played in the incident that night." It was a line that caused many to cringe. It is hard to feel anything but sadness for her.

The NFL suspended Rice for a measly two games. The nation was outraged, but the league defended its decision. But then another tape was made public showing Rice and Palmer in the elevator, with him punching her in the face and knocking her unconscious. Now the NFL and the Ravens were embarrassed, and their callous lack of concern for the abuse of an intimate partner was laid bare. The Ravens released Rice, and the NFL suspended him indefinitely.

Now, there are many issues here. How was Rice able to avoid trial on the original charge? Why did it take the second tape for the NFL to act more forcefully in the case? Did anyone at the NFL see the second tape before it was made public? Could anyone have if he'd tried harder to find it? It seems that there were multiple failures here.

But, in a way, those are secondary to the issue of the abuse itself and why people stay in relationships with abusers.

It is a couple's decision - individually and jointly - whether a union is salvageable and worth the effort to save it. But too often, victims of abuse feel that they have no choice. They can end up staying with an abuser for myriad complex reasons, many of which are regrettable. Often, they just feel trapped. Staying doesn't excuse the abuse itself, and it can actually embolden the abuser. We must treat intimate partner violence for what it is: a societal scourge that must be constantly called out and constantly condemned.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "More than one-third of women in the United States (35.6 percent, or approximately 42.4 million) have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime," and nearly one in three women have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.

To put some of this in percentage terms, 30.3 percent of women in the United States have been "slapped, pushed, or shoved by an intimate partner" in their lifetime.

This is, of course, not just a U.S. issue. As the United Nations makes clear, "Violence against women is a universal phenomenon." According to the United Nations, "Up to seven in 10 women around the world experience physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lifetime," and "603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not yet considered a crime."

If there is anything to be optimistic about, it is this: According to a Justice Department report issued in April, "The rate of domestic violence declined 63 percent, from 13.5 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 1994 to 5.0 per 1,000 in 2012."

We can push these numbers even lower, but first we need people like Rice, the Ravens and those in the NFL to behave more honorably than they have in this case. □



## The Middle East's Friendless Christians



**ROSS DOUTHAT**  
© 2014 New York Times

When the long, grim history of Christianity's disappearance from the Middle East is written, Ted Cruz's performance last week at a conference organized to highlight the persecution of his co-religionists will merit at most a footnote. But sometimes a footnote can help illuminate a tragedy's unhappy whole.

For decades, the Middle East's increasingly beleaguered Christian communities have suffered from a fatal invisibility in the Western world. And their plight has been particularly invisible in the United States, which as a majority-Christian superpower might have been expected to provide particular support.

There are three reasons for this invisibility. The political left in the West associates Christian faith with dead white male imperialism and does not come naturally to the recognition that Christianity is now the globe's most persecuted religion. And in the Middle East the Israel-Palestine question, with its colonial overtones, has been the left's great obsession, whereas the less ideologically convenient plight of Christians under Islamic rule is often left untouched.

To America's strategic class, meanwhile, the Middle East's Christians simply don't have the kind of influence required to matter. A minority like the Kurds, geographically concentrated and well-armed, can be a player in the great game, a potential United States ally. But except in Lebanon, the region's Christians are too scattered and impotent to offer much quid for the superpower's quo. So whether we're pursuing stability by backing the anti-Christian Saudis or pursuing

transformation by toppling Saddam Hussein (and unleashing the furies on Iraq's religious minorities), our policymakers have rarely given Christian interests any kind of due.

Then, finally, there is the American right, where one would expect those interests to find a greater hearing. But the ancient churches of the Middle East (Eastern Orthodox, Chaldean, Maronites, Copt, Assyrian) are theologically and culturally alien to many American Catholics and evangelicals. And the great cause of many conservative Christians in the United States is the state of Israel, toward which many Arab Christians harbor feelings that range from the complicated to the hostile.

Which brings us to Ted Cruz, the conservative senator and preacher's son, who was invited to give the keynote address last week at a Washington, D.C., summit conference organized in response to religious cleansing by the Islamic State.

The conference was an ecumenical affair, featuring an unusual gathering of patriarchs and clerics (few of whom agree on much) from a wide range of Christian churches. But Middle Eastern reality and the Christian position in the region being what they are, this meant that it included (and was attacked for including) some attendees who were hostile to Israeli policy or had said harsh things about the Jewish state, and some who had dealings with Israel's enemies - Bashar Assad and Hezbollah, in particular.

Perhaps (I think almost certainly) with this reality in mind, Cruz began his remarks with a lecture on how Assad, Hezbollah and the Islamic State are indistinguishable, and paused to extol Israel's founding, and then offered the sweeping claim that the region's Christians actually "have no greater ally than the Jewish state."

The first (debatable) proposition earned applause, as did his calls for Jewish-Christian unity. But at the last claim, with which many

Lebanese and Palestinian Christians strongly disagree, the audience offered up some boos, at which point Cruz began attacking "those who hate Israel," the boos escalated, things fell apart and he walked offstage.

Many conservatives think Cruz acquitted himself admirably, and he's earned admiring headlines around the right-wing web. There is a certain airless logic to this pro-Cruz take - that because Assad and Hezbollah are murderers and enemies of Israel, anyone who deals with them deserves to be confronted, and if that confrontation meets with boos, you've probably exposed anti-Semites who deserve to be attacked still more.

But this logic shows not a scintilla of sympathy for what it's actually like to be an embattled religious minority, against whom genocide isn't just being threatened but actually carried out.

Some of the leaders of the Middle East's Christians have made choices that merit criticism; some of them harbor attitudes toward their Jewish neighbors that merit condemnation. But Israel is a rich, well-defended, nuclear-armed nation-state; its supporters, and especially its American Christian supporters, can afford to allow a population that's none of the above to organize to save itself from outright extinction without also demanding applause for Israeli policy as the price of sympathy and support.

If Cruz felt that he couldn't in good conscience address an audience of persecuted Arab Christians without including a florid, "no greater ally" preamble about Israel, he could have withdrawn from the event. The fact that he preferred to do it this way instead says a lot - none of it good - about his priorities and instincts.

The fact that he was widely lauded says a lot about why, if 2,000 years of Christian history in the Middle East ends in blood and ash and exile, the American right no less than the left and center will deserve a share of responsibility for that fate. □

# A Mellow Beastie Adds Home Building to the Mix

**MATT A.V. CHABAN**

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**NEW YORK** - On "Slow and Low," the penultimate song of their debut album, Michael Diamond and his fellow Beastie Boys rap, "We don't only rock the house, but we house the rock. We don't stroll but we roll straight to the top."

The 21-year-old bad boy once famous for fighting for your right to party probably never would have guessed that about three decades later he would be a developer of an actual house, one that is striking but not exactly rocking, in that land of strolling and strollers, brownstone Brooklyn.

But with a wife and two children in private school, and his 50s not far off, Diamond, known to millions of former adolescents as Mike D., has found himself branching out into other passions.

This time, it really is Mike D. with the master plan.

Tamra Davis - who met her husband of 21 years while directing music videos for the Beasties, NWA and Sonic Youth, and has since shot such features as "CB4," "Billy Madison" and "Half Baked" - prefers another of Diamond's lyrics to define the project.

"It's more like 'Skills to Pay the Bills,'" she said.

The couple were standing inside the shell of a townhouse in Cobble Hill that they are building with Jill and John Bouratoglou, both architects. They all met four years ago on the basketball court, where Diamond and Bouratoglou coached their sons together.

At playdates and in the stands, their conversations became consumed with talk of light fixtures and classic buildings as much as good teachers and new movies. It was the Bouratoglous who helped convince their friends to leave TriBeCa for Brooklyn two years ago, where the four of them gut-renovated a historic townhouse in Cobble Hill that Diamond and Davis now call home.

Online, some have criticized the rebellious teen

idol for moving to brownstone Brooklyn, to say nothing of building there.

"What, am I supposed to live in a frat house?" Diamond shot back. "It's not like Jay Z's still in the projects."

The work is not really a surprise for either Diamond or Davis. His mother was an interior designer, and he fondly recalls a middle-school trip to the Yale School of Architecture, designed by Paul Rudolph, as an eye-opening early experience. Davis grew up in a succession of modernist homes around Los Angeles and her work on music videos was often budget-conscious, leaving her with the task of handling locations and sets.

"I'm the one interested in function, and he's all about form," Davis said. "He's all about making sure it doesn't just work, but it's cool."

The Bouratoglous live next door to the new house, which was until recently an empty corner lot owned



**Mike Diamond, former Beastie Boy band member known as Mike D., and his wife Tamra Davis are building this townhouse with another couple who are both architects at the corner of Boerum Place and Pacific Street in the New York borough of Brooklyn, Sept. 10, 2014.**

(Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times)

cided to invite Mike and Tamra over for dinner," she joked.

A few other friends have invested in the project, but none are as involved in the design.

In addition to creating their Cobble Hill home - and a

Cornell and Leslie Marshall of the Corcoran Group.

In a departure for the neighborhood of red brick and brownstone, the house features black bricks and ipe wood on the exterior.

"It's on this really promi-

Jill Bouratoglou said.

Yet the most important feature is probably the garage. "In this neighborhood, you get PPS - post-parking syndrome," Diamond said. "There's probably no bigger amenity." Inside, the living room is 4 feet above the street to increase privacy, and to create a large multipurpose room downstairs. "When you live through a winter with two boys, you quickly realize the value of a do-anything room," Diamond said.

The kitchen is being overseen by Davis, who has a popular vegetarian cooking show online, and there is a back patio on the roof of the garage.

One flight up are three bedrooms for children or guests; another floor up is the master suite for the parents.

"We've got his-and-hers closets," Diamond said, before pausing. "Or his-and-his or hers-and-hers." The top floor has a roof terrace and a flexible space, for editing films, recording albums or just painting and doing yoga.

Jonathan Miller, president of the appraisal firm Miller Samuel (and an avid Beastie Boys fan), said that while the involvement of Diamond and Davis would not necessarily boost the price, their roles certainly help with the marketing. □



**Diamond and Davis tour the construction of a townhouse they are building with another couple in the New York borough of Brooklyn, Sept. 10, 2014. With a wife and two children in private school, and his 50s not far off, Diamond has found himself branching out into other passions.**

(Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times)

by a man who has an auto-body shop across the street. He refused to sell, but Jill Bouratoglous began baking him cookies and bringing him flowers, and last year he agreed to part with it, for \$1.5 million, according to city records. "When he told me the price, that's when we de-

line of Brooklyn-themed wallpaper - Diamond and Davis have designed homes for themselves in Malibu and Atlanta, though this is their first speculative venture. The interior is still under construction, but the house came on the market last week for \$4.98 million, listed with James

nent corner, just off Atlantic where people come off the bridge, so we wanted to really make a statement," Davis said.

The windows, some 10 feet high, are at irregular widths. "Mike has a real sense of rhythm, you could say, and I think we worked to express that in the facade,"